

GATT/AIR/327

11 JUNE 1963

SUBJECT: MODIFICATION OF SCHEDULES UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII:1

1. AS MATTERS STAND AT THE MOMENT, CONTRACTING PARTIES MAY, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH 1 OF ARTICLE XXVIII AND SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION AND AGREEMENT AS PROVIDED IN THAT ARTICLE, MODIFY OR WITHDRAW TARIFF CONCESSIONS ON 1 JANUARY 1964; CONTRACTING PARTIES WISHING TO DO SO HAVE, UNDER THE PROCEDURES LAID DOWN IN NOTE 3 TO PARAGRAPH 1 OF ARTICLE XXVIII, TO NOTIFY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THIS EFFECT BETWEEN 1 JULY AND 1 OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR.

2. UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH 1 OF THE ARTICLE, HOWEVER, THE CONTRACTING PARTIES MAY, BY TWO THIRDS OF THE VOTES CAST, CHANGE THIS TIME-TABLE. WHETHER ADVANTAGE SHOULD BE TAKEN OF THIS POSSIBILITY HAS TO BE CONSIDERED AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE AGREEMENT OF MINISTERS AT THEIR MEETING ON 21 MAY 1963 TO EMBARK ON A ROUND OF COMPREHENSIVE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THERE MAY BE CONSIDERABLE ADVANTAGE IN LEAVING ANY NEGOTIATIONS ARISING UNDER THE NORMAL OPERATION OF PARAGRAPH 1 OF ARTICLE XXVIII TO BE DEALT WITH IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE COMING TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. THIS COURSE WOULD REQUIRE:

- (a) A DECISION BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES THAT THE NEXT PERIOD ON THE FIRST DAY OF WHICH CONTRACTING PARTIES MAY MODIFY OR WITHDRAW CONCESSIONS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH 1 OF ARTICLE XXVIII SHOULD BEGIN ON, SAY, 1 JANUARY 1965;
- (b) THE DRAWING UP OF SUITABLE PROCEDURES UNDER WHICH NEGOTIATIONS UNDER PARAGRAPH 1 OF ARTICLE XXVIII COULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE COMING TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. AT ALL EVENTS THIS IS SOMETHING WHICH I BELIEVE THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE SHOULD DISCUSS AT ITS COMING MEETING ON 27 JUNE. IN VIEW OF THE TIME-TABLE DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 1 ABOVE, ANY DECISION ALONG THE LINES OF PARAGRAPH 2(a) ABOVE SHOULD BE TAKEN BY 1 JULY OR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER. I SUGGEST, THEREFORE, THAT, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE IN THE EVENT COMES TO THE VIEW THAT SUCH A DECISION SHOULD BE TAKEN, THE COUNCIL, AT ITS MEETING ON 19/21 JUNE, SHOULD AUTHORIZE THE COMMITTEE, SHOULD IT SO WISH, TO DRAW UP THE TEXT OF THE NECESSARY DECISION FOR SUBMISSION TO GOVERNMENTS. REPRESENTATIVES WHO WERE IN A POSITION TO CAST THEIR VOTES AT THE END OF THE COMMITTEE'S DISCUSSION WOULD BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO. CONTRACTING PARTIES NOT REPRESENTED AT THE MEETING, OR THOSE UNABLE TO VOTE AT THE MEETING, WOULD RECEIVE BALLOT PAPERS ENABLING THEM TO VOTE BY POST.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE

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