

GATT/AIR/336

9 JULY 1963

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF ACTION COMMITTEE

UNDER THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY MINISTERS ON 21 MAY 1963 (MIN(63)8) THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES WAS REQUIRED TO TAKE THE PROCEDURAL STEPS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH AN ACTION COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSES SET OUT IN THAT RESOLUTION. AT MEETINGS ON 19-21 JUNE AND 4 JULY THE COUNCIL CONSIDERED THE WORKING METHODS OF THE COMMITTEE AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER GATT BODIES PARTICULARLY COMMITTEE III. THE COUNCIL'S CONCLUSIONS ON THESE MATTERS ARE RECORDED IN THE MINUTES OF THESE MEETINGS - C/M/16 DATED 3 JULY AND C/M/17 NOW BEING DISTRIBUTED.

AS FOR THE COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE THE COUNCIL CONSIDERED SEVERAL ALTERNATIVES. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT A SMALL COMMITTEE WOULD PROBABLY BE MORE EFFICIENT, BUT NEVERTHELESS MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE OPEN TO ALL CONTRACTING PARTIES AND GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATING IN GATT ACTIVITIES WHICH NOTIFY THEIR DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE AND THEIR READINESS TO BE REPRESENTED AT MEETINGS AT AN APPROPRIATE SENIOR LEVEL. THE COUNCIL DECIDED TO CONDUCT ITS ENQUIRY ABOUT MEMBERSHIP IN TWO STAGES, IT BEING CONSIDERED THAT, EVEN ON THE BASIS OF MEMBERSHIP BEING OPEN TO THOSE DESIRING TO PARTICIPATE, IT MIGHT STILL BE POSSIBLE TO ARRIVE AT A COMMITTEE RELATIVELY RESTRICTED IN SIZE.

ACCORDINGLY, I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BY 29 JULY AN INDICATION OF THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHICH WISH, IN ANY CASE, TO BE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE AND ALSO PROVISIONAL REQUESTS FROM THOSE WHICH WILL WISH TO BE MEMBERS IN THE EVENT THAT A LARGE COMMITTEE IS ESTABLISHED. THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST ENQUIRY WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON 1 AUGUST. GOVERNMENTS HAVING MADE PROVISIONAL REQUESTS WILL THEN BE IN A POSITION TO DECIDE, HAVING REGARD TO THE NUMBER OF FIRM REQUESTS RECEIVED, WHETHER THEY WISH TO CONFIRM THEIR REQUESTS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE

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