

GATT/AIR/389

3 APRIL 1964

U R G E N T

SUBJECT: OFFICE SPACE FOR DELEGATIONS DURING THE "KENNEDY" ROUND

IN GATT/AIR/339 OF 15 JULY 1963 CONTRACTING PARTIES WERE INVITED TO COMMUNICATE TO THE SECRETARIAT THE NUMBER OF OFFICES WHICH WOULD BE REQUIRED BY THE DELEGATIONS DURING THE FORTHCOMING TRADE CONFERENCE. AS INDICATED IN DOCUMENT L/2190 OF 19 MARCH 1964 ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE ON THE BASIS OF THE REPLIES RECEIVED TO LEASE CERTAIN OFFICE PREMISES IN GENEVA. IT WILL BE APPRECIATED THAT ACTION WAS REQUIRED WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE CONFERENCE TO ENSURE THAT THE FACILITIES SO REQUESTED WERE AVAILABLE. ON THE OTHER HAND ONCE SUCH ARRANGEMENTS ARE ENTERED INTO THEY INVOLVE FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TOWARDS THIRD PARTIES.

FOLLOWING MY LETTER OF 20 MARCH 1964 SEEKING FINAL CONFIRMATION OF EARLIER REQUESTS IT HAS BEEN FOUND THAT SOME DELEGATIONS HAVE INDICATED THAT THE OFFICES THEY ORIGINALLY REQUESTED WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED. THIS IS DISTURBING AND SURPRISING IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE DURING SIMILAR NEGOTIATIONS HAS SHOWN THAT MORE RATHER THAN LESS OFFICE ACCOMMODATION WAS SOUGHT.

I NOW FIND IT NECESSARY TO ADVISE ALL GOVERNMENTS WHICH REQUESTED OFFICE SPACE, THAT IN CONSIDERING THEIR DECISION AND, IN THE CASES MENTIONED ABOVE, IN RECONSIDERING THEIR DECISION AS TO OFFICE SPACE REQUIRED, THEY SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT COMMITMENTS HAVE BEEN ENTERED INTO ON THEIR BEHALF AND AS FAR AS POSSIBLE EARLIER REQUESTS SHOULD NOT BE LIGHTLY DISCONTINUED.

I SHOULD THEREFORE BE GRATEFUL IF ALL GOVERNMENTS WHICH REQUESTED SPACE IN RESPONSE TO AIRGRAM 339 BUT HAVE NOT SO FAR REPLIED TO MY LETTER OF 20 MARCH SHOULD DO SO IMMEDIATELY. I WOULD ALSO BE GRATEFUL IF THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE WITHDRAWN THEIR REQUESTS RECONSIDER THEIR POSITION IN THE LIGHT OF THE ABOVE.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE

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