

22 February 1960

GATT Staff Communication No. 22

STAFF ASSEMBLY 1960

1. In accordance with Article 8 of the Statutes, the Staff Council herewith **convokes** the Second Ordinary Staff Assembly, which will take place on Thursday, 25 February, at 6.15 p.m. in the Cafeteria.
2. The agenda will be as follows:
 - (i) Report by the Staff Council
 - (ii) Items proposed by staff membersRequests for items under (ii) should be deposited in writing with the staff representatives before noon, Wednesday, 24 February.
3. The report by the Staff Council is annexed to this staff communication.

STAFF COUNCIL ELECTION

4. The staff is also informed that the election of the new Staff Council will be held on Monday, 29 February. Further details will be issued in due course by the Polling Officers.

The Staff Council

Report by the Staff Council

1959/60

1. The Staff Council has during the year had the following composition:

Mr. R. Glémet (Chairman)

Mr. G. Hortling

Mme M. Brunetti

Mme N. Haefeli

Upon the resignation of Mr. Glémet from membership in the Council in November, Mr. Hortling became chairman and Mr. F. Petrie was elected a new member.

2. Statutes of the Association

An English version of the Statutes has been distributed to staff members. It is hoped that it will be possible to issue a French text soon.

3. Federation of Civil Servants Association (FICSA)

At the Ordinary Staff Assembly in February 1959 the Staff Association decided unanimously to apply for membership in the FICSA. The financial implications were accepted on the understanding that the average contribution per staff member and year would not exceed three francs.

The 12th session of the Council of the FICSA was held in Rome in October 1959. The Council unanimously decided to accept the application of the GATT Staff Association and noted that upon the coming into force of the amendment to Article 5 of the FICSA Statutes, and after written notification by the GATT Staff Association of its acceptance of the Statutes, this Association would become a member of the Federation. The amendment to the FICSA Statutes was found necessary so as to enable the staff of other than the United Nations and its specialized agencies to become FICSA members. The amendments have now been adopted and the notification has been sent to the FICSA.

The confirmation of our membership in the FICSA will thus follow in due course.

4. Staff Regulations

The Staff Council has recently discussed with the Executive Secretary the position of the administrative regulations and rules applied to the GATT staff. The Executive Secretary confirmed what he had already stated when the matter was before the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the Tokyo session, namely, that as long as there was no legal basis for the GATT as an organization and the necessary institutional background was thus lacking, it did not seem possible to have staff regulations of our own. It was, however, for the CONTRACTING PARTIES to decide on this matter. Draft regulations had been drawn up, they are at present being studied by the staff representatives, and a text could be made available to the CONTRACTING PARTIES if and when they so desired. The representative of the staff informed the Executive Secretary that the present arrangement, whereby the United Nations Staff Regulations are applied to the GATT staff could be considered fully satisfactory. It is realized that in the implementation of these regulations the administration had in some cases to deviate from the United Nations interpretation but that this would be done on the understanding that the GATT staff would not be given treatment less favourable than that practised in the United Nations, and that in the case of any major deviation the staff representatives would be consulted.

The staff representatives took note with satisfaction of this assurance given by the Executive Secretary.

5. Contributions to World Refugee Year

The Staff Council has appealed to the staff to participate in the collection made among the United Nations Staff in Geneva. Staff members will be informed later as regards the use of the amount collected.

6. The Thrift and Credit Union (UN-ILO) Geneva

Staff members attention is drawn to the existence of the Mutuelle d'Epargne et de Credit the aim of which is to assist staff in the placement of funds and to give short-term credit on favourable terms.

The Union is intended primarily for members of the United Nations Staff Association but is also open for members of staff associations which belong to FICSA on condition that a formal agreement has been concluded between such associations and the Union. It would be possible for the GATT Staff Association to become an associated member of the Credit Union as soon as the formalities required for membership in the FICSA have been fulfilled. The Staff Council intends to take the necessary steps. A copy of the statutes and internal rules concerning credits etc., of the Union can be consulted with the staff representatives.

7. Finally the Staff Council, whose mandate comes to an end with this Staff Assembly, wants to thank the members of the Association for the confidence which they have shown and would take this opportunity of wishing the new staff representatives every success in their task. Perhaps the most important administrative matter concerning the staff during the past year was the introduction of the **permanent contracts**. The Staff Council wishes to express its sincere thanks to the Executive Secretary for the **spirit of** understanding in which this matter was settled. It has greatly contributed to a feeling of wellbeing and security among the staff, and the Staff Council feels that there do not at present exist any great outstanding problems in the relations between staff and administration.