

GATT/AIR/113

23 May 1957

SUBJECT: PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS - JUNE/OCTOBER 1957

IN VIEW OF THE HEAVY PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS PRIOR TO THE TWELFTH SESSION IT MIGHT BE CONVENIENT FOR CONTRACTING PARTIES TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING TIME-TABLE WHICH INCLUDES SUGGESTIONS FOR FIXING THOSE DATES WHICH HAVE NOT SO FAR BEEN DETERMINED.

1. CONSULTATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XII:4(b)

IT WAS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED THAT NINE CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE HELD DURING THE THREE WEEKS 10 TO 29 JUNE. HOWEVER, AS 10 JUNE IS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY I PROPOSE THAT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CONSULTATIONS COMMITTEE BE HELD AT 3 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 11 JUNE. THE THREE WEEKS PROVIDED FOR THESE NINE CONSULTATIONS INVOLVE A VERY CLOSE TIME-TABLE AND I THINK THAT IT WOULD BE MORE REALISTIC TO ENVISAGE THE CONSULTATIONS CONTINUING, IF NECESSARY, UNTIL 6 JULY.

THE SECOND GROUP OF CONSULTATIONS - WITH TURKEY, FINLAND, THE UNITED KINGDOM, RHODESIA AND NYASALAND - WILL BE HELD DURING THE FORTNIGHT COMMENCING 30 SEPTEMBER. I AM PROPOSING TO THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN WHICH WAS ALSO SCHEDULED TO CONSULT BEFORE THE TWELFTH SESSION THAT THIS CONSULTATION SHOULD BE HELD DURING THE SESSION.

2. NEGOTIATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII

IT WAS AGREED BY A MAJORITY OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES, AT THE MEETING OF THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON 24 TO 27 APRIL (IC/SR/31), THAT CONTRACTING PARTIES WISHING TO MODIFY OR WITHDRAW

CONCESSIONS IN THEIR SCHEDULES ON 1 JANUARY 1958 SHOULD NOTIFY THE ITEMS INVOLVED BY 15 JULY, THAT CLAIMS OF SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST SHOULD BE MADE BY 1 SEPTEMBER AND THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BEGIN AT GENEVA ON 1 OCTOBER. HOWEVER, THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MAY DECIDE, IF THE SCOPE OF THE NEGOTIATION IS LARGER THAN EXPECTED, TO INVITE THE PARTICIPATING CONTRACTING PARTIES TO ASSEMBLE IN GENEVA AT AN EARLIER DATE. THESE ARRANGEMENTS DO NOT, OF COURSE, EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOME CONTRACTING PARTIES MAY BE ABLE TO BEGIN THEIR NEGOTIATIONS ON A BILATERAL BASIS IN ADVANCE OF THE MULTILATERAL STAGE.

3. EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY TREATY

UNDER THE PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE TREATY AGREED UPON BY THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE AND NOTIFIED IN GATT/AIR/111, CONTRACTING PARTIES WISHING TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO THE INTERIM COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON MARKET, CONCERNING THE PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION, SHOULD SEND THEM TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY BY 31 MAY. THE COMMITTEE WILL BE REQUESTED TO SUPPLY EXPLANATIONS IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTIONS BY 15 JULY AND THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE IS TO MEET AGAIN IN THE LATTER HALF OF AUGUST FOR SUCH FURTHER EXAMINATION OF THE TREATY AS MAY BE NECESSARY AND TO RECOMMEND THE PROCEDURE TO BE ADOPTED FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE TREATY BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES. I PROPOSE THAT THIS MEETING OF THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE BE CONVENED FOR 3 P.M. ON 26 AUGUST AND CONTINUE UNTIL THE END OF THAT WEEK IF NECESSARY.

4. STATUTORY MEETING OF INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE

UNDER THE REVISED INTERSESSIONAL PROCEDURES (FIFTH SUPPLEMENT, PAGE 17) THE COMMITTEE IS TO MEET THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE SESSION TO CONSIDER THE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA, TO EXAMINE THE ADEQUACY OF THE DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE AND TO CLARIFY AND DEFINE THE ISSUES INVOLVED. SEVERAL QUESTIONS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES HAVE BEEN DEFERRED FOR CONSIDERATION AT THIS MEETING (SEE IC/SR/31). I PROPOSE THAT THE MEETING SHOULD BEGIN AT 3 P.M. ON 23 SEPTEMBER.

IN CONNEXION WITH ONE OF THE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING - RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES - I WISH TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE (IC/SR/31) THAT INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS SHOULD SUBMIT DEFINITE PROPOSALS AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AND THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SHOULD ENDEAVOUR TO INCLUDE EXPERTS ON THIS QUESTION IN THEIR DELEGATIONS.

5. PRE-SESSION MEETING OF INTERSESSIONAL MEETING AND OPENING OF  
TWELFTH SESSION

THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE WILL MEET AGAIN ON 16 OCTOBER TO  
CONSIDER THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO  
THE ORDER OF BUSINESS. THE TWELFTH SESSION WILL OPEN ON  
17 OCTOBER.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE