

GATT/AIR/1-4

17 JUNE 1957

SUBJECT: INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON 28 JUNE

I HAVE BEEN ASKED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA TO CONVENE A MEETING OF THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY UNDER PARAGRAPH 2(A) OF THE DECLARATION ON THE CONTINUED APPLICATION OF SCHEDULES OF 10 MARCH 1955, TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS UNDER PARAGRAPH 4 OF ARTICLE XXVIII (REVISED).

THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA HAS NOTIFIED ITS DESIRE TO WITHDRAW THE FOLLOWING CONCESSION APPEARING IN PART I OF SCHEDULE I:

<u>AUSTRALIAN TARIFF</u> <u>ITEM NO.</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION OF</u> <u>PRODUCT</u>	<u>RATE OF DUTY</u>
Ex 106 B	SLIDE FASTENER TAPE	12½ PER CENT

"THE CONCESSION WAS ORIGINALLY NEGOTIATED WITH FRANCE AT GENEVA IN 1947, AND THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE IS BEING NOTIFIED OF THE DESIRE OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO WITHDRAW THE CONCESSION UNDER ITEM 106 B. THE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION WILL BE TAKEN UP WITH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

"IT IS REGRETTED THAT SEPARATE STATISTICS FOR 'SLIDE FASTENER TAPE' ARE NOT AVAILABLE, BUT IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT FRANCE HAS NO SIGNIFICANT INTEREST IN TRADE IN THIS ITEM."

IN SUPPORT OF THIS REQUEST THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA HAS SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

"...EARLY PERMISSION TO RENEGOTIATE IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO ENABLE THE AMENDING TARIFF LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED DURING THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION BEGINNING IN AUGUST. THE TARIFF BOARD REPORT RECOMMENDING INCREASED DUTIES ON SLIDE FASTENER TAPE WAS PRESENTED IN AUSTRALIA EARLIER THIS YEAR AND THE NECESSARY INTERNAL PROCEDURES IN AUSTRALIA HAVE NOT MADE IT POSSIBLE TO SEEK RENEGOTIATIONS BEFORE THE PRESENT DATE. UNDER THE PROCEDURES ENVISAGED IN GATT AIRGRAM OF THE 6TH MAY THE TARIFF CHANGE WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE UNTIL THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY SESSION IN 1958, WHICH MIGHT BE AS LATE AS APRIL OR MAY.

"TARIFF ITEM 10(B) IS AN ITEM WHICH COVERS A WIDE VARIETY OF APPAREL, TRIMMINGS AND ACCESSORIES WHILE SLIDE FASTENER TAPES REPRESENT ONLY A PORTION OF 'WEBBINGS' INCLUDED IN THAT ITEM. IN THE ORIGINAL

NEGOTIATION OF THE ITEM IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ANY ATTENTION WOULD HAVE BEEN PAID TO SLIDE FASTENER TAPE AS SUCH AS THE OTHER GOODS INCLUDED THEREIN WOULD BE OF MUCH GREATER VALUE."

ACCORDINGLY I PROPOSE TO CONVENE THE COMMITTEE TO MEET ON 28 JUNE 1957 AT 10.00 A.M. IN THE PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE REQUESTED TO INFORM ME OF THE NAMES OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, AND OTHER CONTRACTING PARTIES SHOULD NOTIFY THE NAMES OF ANY OBSERVERS THEY PROPOSE TO SEND TO THE MEETING.