

GATT/AIR/118

26 JULY 1957

SUBJECTS: MEETING OF MINISTERS DURING THE TWELFTH SESSION  
AND  
THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE

1. MEETING OF MINISTERS DURING THE TWELFTH SESSION

AT THE ELEVENTH SESSION IT WAS AGREED (SR.11/17, P.193), THAT ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE MADE FOR A MEETING OF TRADE MINISTERS EARLY IN THE TWELFTH SESSION. I BELIEVE THERE WOULD BE MANY ADVANTAGES IN HOLDING THE MINISTERIAL MEETING SOME TEN DAYS AFTER THE OPENING OF THE SESSION AS THIS WOULD ALLOW THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS WITH MANY OF THE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING PARTIES IN THE FIRST DAYS OF THE SESSION; THE MINISTERIAL MEETING AND THE ORDINARY WORK OF THE SESSION COULD THEN PROCEED SIMULTANEOUSLY. FURTHER, I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT IT IS THE DESIRE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THAT IT SHOULD BE REPRESENTED AT THIS MEETING BY MR. DILLON, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, AND THAT MR. DILLON COULD BE IN GENEVA DURING THE WEEK COMMENCING 28 OCTOBER BUT, OWING TO OTHER ENGAGEMENTS, NOT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SESSION. I THEREFORE PROPOSE THAT THE MEETING OF MINISTERS SHOULD BEGIN ON 23 OCTOBER AND THAT ALL CONTRACTING PARTIES WHICH ARE ABLE TO DO SO SHOULD ARRANGE FOR THEIR TRADE MINISTERS TO ATTEND THE SESSION DURING THAT WEEK.

AS AN AGENDA FOR THE MINISTERIAL MEETING I PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- I. PROGRESS IN THE EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE (REFERENCE "INTERNATIONAL TRADE, 1956")
- II. PROSPECTS FOR ACHIEVING FURTHER PROGRESS IN THE EXPANSION OF TRADE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, PARTICULARLY THROUGH GATT.
- III. CONSIDERATION OF THE PRINCIPAL ITEMS ON THE TWELFTH SESSION AGENDA, SUCH AS THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET, TRENDS IN COMMODITY TRADE AND MACHINERY FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE COOPERATION.

THE MEETING WHICH I HAVE CONVENED FOR 6 AUGUST (SEE GATT/AIR/117) WILL AFFORD AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CONTRACTING PARTIES WISHING TO COMMENT AT THIS STAGE ON THE DATE AND AGENDA FOR THE MINISTERIAL MEETING TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN TO THE COMMITTEE. THE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE CONFIRMED AT THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE IN SEPTEMBER.

2. THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE

IN AIRGRAMS 113 AND 116 I SUGGESTED THAT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE SHOULD COMMENCE ON MONDAY, 23RD, BUT I NOW FIND THAT THAT IS ALSO THE OPENING DAY OF THE ANNUAL MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AND OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT. I FEEL I SHOULD ATTEND THESE MEETINGS AND IT IS PROBABLE THAT SOME DELEGATES MAY FIND THE CLASH OF DATES EQUALLY INCONVENIENT.

I PROPOSE, THEREFORE, THAT THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING SHOULD COMMENCE AT 11.00 A.M. ON THURSDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER SO THAT DELEGATES WISHING TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS OF THE FUND AND BANK WILL NEVERTHELESS BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST DAYS OF THE COMMITTEE'S MEETING. IF ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE FINDS DIFFICULTY IN AGREEING TO THE CHANGE OF DATES WHICH I HAVE PROPOSED, THE MATTER COULD BE TAKEN UP AT THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON 6 AUGUST.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE