

GATT/AIR/142

30 SEPTEMBER 1958

SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE OF MINISTERS AT THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES (REF. GATT/AIR/137 AND GATT/AIR/141)

AT ITS MEETING FROM 24 - 26 SEPTEMBER, THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE, AFTER HAVING GIVEN CONSIDERATION TO THE MATTERS RAISED IN THE ABOVE AIRGRAMS, CONCURRED IN THE DESIRABILITY OF A DISCUSSION EARLY IN THE SESSION OF THE QUESTIONS I PROPOSED IN GATT/AIR/141. THE COMMITTEE THEREFORE DECIDED THAT SUCH A DISCUSSION SHOULD BE HELD AND THOUGHT IT DESIRABLE THAT THIS SHOULD TAKE PLACE AT A MEETING OF CONTRACTING PARTIES AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. THE FOLLOWING DECISION WAS ADOPTED:

- I. A MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL SHALL BE HELD DURING THE THIRTEENTH SESSION ON 16 - 18 OCTOBER;
- II. THIS DECISION, HOWEVER, IS CONDITIONAL ON A REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDANCE OF MINISTERS, NUMERICALLY AND GEOGRAPHICALLY, i.e. ABOUT TWENTY MINISTERS DRAWN FROM ALL THE IMPORTANT GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS REPRESENTED IN THE GATT;
- III. IF THESE CRITERIA ARE NOT FULFILLED BY 5 OCTOBER 1958, NO FORMAL MINISTERIAL MEETING SHALL BE HELD, AND THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SHALL PROMPTLY SO INFORM THE CONTRACTING PARTIES.
- IV. EVEN IF NO FORMAL MINISTERIAL MEETING IS HELD, THE CONTRACTING PARTIES WOULD WARMLY WELCOME INDIVIDUAL MINISTERS WHO MIGHT WISH TO LAY THEIR VIEWS BEFORE THE CONTRACTING PARTIES AT THE THIRTEENTH SESSION.

E. WYNDEHAM WHITE.