

GATT/AIR/146

SUBJECT: INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING FOR AUSTRALIAN
APPLICATION UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII:4

23 JAN 1959

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION DATED 20 JANUARY HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT:

"THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT REQUESTS AUTHORITY FOR AUSTRALIA TO RENEGOTIATE, UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII PARAGRAPH 4, THE CONCESSIONS ON ITEM 105(F)(1) APPEARING IN PART I (MOST FAVOURED NATION TARIFF) AND PART II (PREFERENTIAL TARIFF) OF SCHEDULE I. THE CONCESSIONS IN PART I WERE NEGOTIATED WITH FRANCE, AND THOSE IN PART II WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM. ON THE BASIS OF THE LAST THREE YEARS TRADE, THE UNITED KINGDOM IS THE PRINCIPAL PREFERENTIAL SUPPLIER AND ITALY IS THE PRINCIPAL M.F.N. SUPPLIER.

"THIS REQUEST FOLLOWS A RECOMMENDATION BY THE AUSTRALIAN TARIFF BOARD THAT ITEMS 105(F)(1) AND 105(F)(2) BE AMALGAMATED AND THAT THE PROPOSED NEW COMBINED ITEM BE SUBJECT TO EXISTING DUTIES ON ITEM 105(F)(2). THE PREFERENTIAL AND M.F.N. RATES UNDER ITEM 105(F)(2) ARE ALSO BOUND TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AND FRANCE RESPECTIVELY.

"ITEM 105(F)(1) COVERS PIECE-GOODS OF WOOL OR CONTAINING WOOL ORDINARILY USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF OUTER CLOTHING FOR HUMAN WEAR AND WEIGHING MORE THAN 3 OZ. PER SQUARE YARD. ITEM 105(F)(2) COVERS PIECE-GOODS OF WOOL OR CONTAINING WOOL N.E.I. MUCH DIFFICULTY IS EXPERIENCED IN DETERMINING WHETHER CERTAIN PIECE-GOODS ARE ORDINARILY USED FOR OUTER CLOTHING AND THE PROPOSED REVISION IS DESIGNED TO AVOID THESE DIFFICULTIES.

"BASICALLY THIS REQUEST TO RENEGOTIATE ITEM 105(F)(1) ARISES OUT OF THE NEED TO ADJUST BOUND CONCESSIONS IN THE LIGHT OF THE AUSTRALIAN TARIFF BOARD'S RECOMMENDATION FOR AMALGAMATION OF ITEMS 105(F)(1) AND 105(F)(2). THIS ADJUSTMENT OF BOUND CONCESSIONS BECOMES NECESSARY BECAUSE IN AMALGAMATION OF THE TWO ITEMS THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT COULD NOT BE SURE THAT THE RATES OF DUTY UNDER ITEM 105(F)(1) WILL AT ALL TIMES BE LESS THAN THOSE UNDER ITEM 105(F)(2) ALTHOUGH, AT LEAST IN RESPECT OF MOST-FAVORED-NATION TRADE, THE STATISTICAL EVIDENCE AVAILABLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THIS IS THE POSITION FOR PRACTICALLY ALL IMPORTS ADMITTED UNDER ITEM 105(F)(1). AUSTRALIA TAKES THE VIEW THAT THIS PROCESS OF ADJUSTMENT SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE XXVIII."

SENT BY : Executive Secretary, GATT, Tel. address : ICITO GENEVA

ENVOYÉ PAR : Secrétaire Exécutif, GATT, Adresse télégraphique : ICITO GENÈVE

ACCORDINGLY I PROPOSE TO CONVENE THE COMMITTEE TO MEET ON 11 FEBRUARY 1959 AT 2.30 P.M. IN THE PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA. I HAVE CHOSEN THIS DATE BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE IN GENEVA OF DELEGATES ATTENDING MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE I ON EXPANSION OF TRADE FROM 9 TO 13 FEBRUARY.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IN SUPPORT OF THEIR APPLICATION IS ANNEXED HERETO.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE

