

GATT/AIR/181

19 FEBRUARY 1960

SUBJECT: PARTICIPATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IN THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE OEEC TO CONSIDER CERTAIN TRADE PROBLEMS

I HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT AT A MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE COUNTRIES MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE ORGANISATION FOR EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION, TOGETHER WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, IN PARIS ON 14 JANUARY, A RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED CONSTITUTING A COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER CERTAIN TRADE PROBLEMS. THE TEXT OF THIS RESOLUTION IS AS FOLLOWS:-

"RESOLUTION ON TRADE PROBLEMS

THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

RECOGNIZING THAT THERE ARE PROBLEMS OF COMMERCIAL POLICY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO THE TWENTY GOVERNMENTS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF, OR ASSOCIATE WITH, THE OEEC;

TAKING NOTE OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE EEC AND OF THE CONVENTION FOR AN EFTA;

BEARING IN MIND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PROVISIONS OF THESE AGREEMENTS AND GENERAL INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL POLICY;

CONSIDERING THE NEED TO EXAMINE, AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EEC AND THE EFTA WITH DUE REGARD TO THE COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OF THIRD COUNTRIES AND THE PRINCIPLES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE GATT.

DECIDES TO PROPOSE TO THE TWENTY GOVERNMENTS THAT THEY CONSTITUTE THEMSELVES, TOGETHER WITH THE EEC, A COMMITTEE WITH POWER TO

1. ESTABLISH ONE OR MORE INFORMAL WORKING GROUPS, FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THESE PROBLEMS WITHOUT INFRINGING THE COMPETENCE OF THE EXISTING INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE GATT OR THE OEEC; THESE GROUPS SHOULD REPORT BACK TO THE COMMITTEE;
2. TRANSMIT AN INVITATION TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE GATT TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE DISCUSSIONS."

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CONTRACTING PARTIES WILL NOTE THAT THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED HAVE EXPRESSLY INDICATED THAT THE PROPOSED DISCUSSIONS SHOULD NOT "INFRINGE THE COMPETENCE OF THE EXISTING INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE GATT ....." AND MOREOVER THAT THE EXAMINATION OF "THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EEC AND THE EFTA" IS TO BE CARRIED OUT "WITH DUE REGARD TO THE COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OF THIRD COUNTRIES AND THE PRINCIPLES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE GATT". I UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS THESE CONSIDERATIONS WHICH HAVE LED THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED TO EXPRESS THE WISH THAT I SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND HAVING REGARD TO THE CLOSE CONNECTION OF THE QUESTIONS WITH WHICH THE COMMITTEE WILL BE DEALING WITH THE GENERAL AGREEMENT, I HAVE DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE