

GATT/AIR/187

28 MARCH 1960

SUBJECT: PARTICIPATION IN THE TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS 1960-61

THE LISTS OF REQUESTS OF CONCESSIONS WHICH ARE TO BE DRAWN UP IN PREPARATION FOR THE TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN THE FIRST DAYS OF 1961, MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 1 AUGUST 1960. AT THIS RELATIVELY LATE STAGE, HOWEVER, THERE IS VERY LITTLE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AS TO THE COUNTRIES WHICH INTEND TO PARTICIPATE AND THE EXTENT OF THEIR PARTICIPATION. CONSIDERABLE INCONVENIENCE IS THUS CAUSED TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN PLANNING THEIR WORK.

IN ORDER TO REDUCE THIS INCONVENIENCE TO CONTRACTING PARTIES I WOULD ASK ALL GOVERNMENTS TO LET ME KNOW THEIR PRESENT VIEWS, INDICATING WHETHER THEY INTEND TO PARTICIPATE OR NOT, AND, IN THE AFFIRMATIVE CASE, LISTING, IF POSSIBLE, THE COUNTRIES WITH WHICH THEY WOULD EXPECT TO NEGOTIATE. I AM AWARE THAT SOME COUNTRIES MAY NOT YET BE IN A POSITION TO TAKE A DECISION OF ANY KIND; OTHERS MAY HAVE TAKEN A DECISION IN PRINCIPLE WHICH IS SUBJECT TO REVIEW AT A LATER STAGE. HOWEVER, IN THE ABSENCE OF MORE PRECISE INFORMATION I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT EVEN SOME PRELIMINARY INDICATION OF INTENTION WOULD BE WELCOME.

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