

GATT/AIR/188

28 MARCH 1960

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICAN FREE TRADE AREA

THE TEXT OF THE MONTEVIDEO TREATY, ESTABLISHING A FREE TRADE AREA IN LATIN AMERICA, WAS DISTRIBUTED TO CONTRACTING PARTIES WITH DOCUMENT L/1157. IN THAT DOCUMENT I ADVISED CONTRACTING PARTIES THAT IT WAS PROBABLE, ALTHOUGH NO FORMAL REQUEST HAD YET BEEN RECEIVED, THAT THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED WOULD SUBMIT THE TREATY FOR EXAMINATION UNDER ARTICLE XLIV OF THE GATT AT THE SIXTEENTH SESSION. IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE THE PREPARATIONS FOR SUCH EXAMINATION, I SUGGESTED THAT CONTRACTING PARTIES WISHING TO PUT FORWARD QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE TREATY SHOULD ADDRESS THESE DIRECTLY TO THE SIGNATORIES BY 8 APRIL. HOWEVER, I HAVE NOW RECEIVED REPRESENTATIONS FROM SOME CONTRACTING PARTIES WHICH FEEL THAT THE TIME-LIMIT PROPOSED FOR THE SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS IS TOO SHORT, THAT IT WOULD IN ANY CASE BE PREFERABLE FOR THE QUESTIONS TO BE SENT TO ME SO THAT THEY CAN BE TRANSMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED IN THE FORM OF A CONSOLIDATED QUESTIONNAIRE, AND THAT A THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF THIS MATTER MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE AS EARLY AS MAY. ACCORDINGLY, I WISH TO REVISE MY PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN L/1157 AS FOLLOWS:

1. CONTRACTING PARTIES WISHING TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION SHOULD ADDRESS THESE TO ME, TO REACH GENEVA NOT LATER THAN 25 APRIL.
2. THE SECRETARIAT WILL THEN PREPARE A CONSOLIDATED QUESTIONNAIRE FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED BY 2 MAY.
3. THE SIGNATORY GOVERNMENTS WILL BE ASKED TO SUBMIT THEIR ANSWERS TO ME BY 2 JUNE.
4. THE FOREGOING TIME-TABLE CORRESPONDS TO THAT FOLLOWED IN THE CASE OF THE EFTA CONVENTION AND IS PROBABLY MORE REALISTIC THAN THAT PROPOSED IN L/1157. THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT ALL CONSIDERATION OF THE TREATY NEED BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER THE SIXTEENTH SESSION. AT THAT SESSION THE CONTRACTING PARTIES WOULD, IN ANY CASE, BE IN A POSITION TO BEGIN DISCUSSION OF THE TREATY AND TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COMPLETION OF ITS EXAMINATION UNDER ARTICLE XXIV.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE

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