

GATT/AIR/202

16 AUGUST 1960

SUBJECT: OPENING CEREMONY OF 1960-61 TARIFF CONFERENCE

IN VIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE 1960-61 TARIFF CONFERENCE, THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY HAS CONSULTED WITH SEVERAL DELEGATIONS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING AN OPENING CEREMONY WHICH WOULD BE OPEN TO THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC. THERE APPEARS TO BE A MEASURE OF AGREEMENT THAT SUCH A CEREMONY IS DESIRABLE AND THE SWISS AUTHORITIES HAVE INTIMATED THAT THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATION IS PREPARED TO PRESIDE OVER THE OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE.

IT IS THE HOPE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY THAT A NUMBER OF CONTRACTING PARTIES WILL BE ABLE TO BE REPRESENTED AT A HIGH LEVEL AT THE OPENING CEREMONY AND THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT SOME OF THE LEADING NEGOTIATING COUNTRIES ARE FAVOURABLY DISPOSED TO THE IDEA. DETAILS WILL BE PUBLISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND ACCORDINGLY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO KNOW WHETHER A REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUR GOVERNMENT WISHES TO SPEAK ON THIS OCCASION; IF SO, THE NAME OF THE REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD REACH HIM NOT LATER THAN WEDNESDAY 24 AUGUST.

THE OPENING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE PALAIS DES NATIONS, AT 3 P.M. ON THURSDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 1960.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE

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