## AIRGRAM

## TÉLÉGRAMME PAR AVION

GATT/AIR/230

28 MARCH 1961

SUBJECT: ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION AND FOR A MEETING OF MINISTERS

THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES, AT MEETINGS AT THE END OF FEBRUARY AND ON 24 MARCH 1961, DISCUSSED CERTAIN MATTERS CONCERNING THE EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH SESSIONS OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES AND AGREED UPON TWO RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SUBMIT TO CONTRACTING PARTIES FOR VOTING.

## 1. THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION

IN NOVEBER 1960, THE CONTRACTING PARTIES DECIDED UPON 1-20 MAY 1961 AS THE DATE FOR THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION. MEETHER THERE IS A NEED FOR THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO MEET LARLIER THAN OCTOBER WAS DISCUSSED BY THE COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING ON 22 FEBRUARY TO 2 MARCH (SEE C/M/4) AND IT WAS AGREED THAT THE QUESTION SHOULD BE FURTHER EXAMINED ON 24 MARCH. AT THE MEETING ON 24 MARCH THERE WAS DIVIDED OPINION ABOUT THE PROPOSED CANCELLATION OF THE MAY SESSION. FINALLY, THE COUNCIL AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO THE CONTRACTING PARTIES THAT THERE SHOULD BE A SHORT SESSION FROM 15 TO 19 MAY AND THAT THIS SHOULD BE PRECEDED BY A MELTING OF THE COUNCIL FROM 8 TO 12 MAY. THE COUNCIL PROPOSES THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE SESSION BE LIMITED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO DISCHARGE THEIR FUNCTIONS WITHIN ONE WEEK. I WAS REQUESTED TO SUBMIT THIS RECOMMENDATION TO THE CONTRACTING PARTIES FOR DECISION.

SINTEEN CONTRACTING PARTIES HAVE ALREADY ADVISED THAT THEY SUPPORT THIS RECOMMENDATION AND ONE CONTRACTING PARTY HAS VOTED AGAINST IT, IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF OTHER CONTRACTING PARTIES WOULD NOTIFY ME OF THEIR VOTES NOT LATER THAN 7 APRIL.

IT WAS FURTHER AGREED BY THE COUNCIL THAT CONTRACTING PARTIES SUPPORTING THE RECOMMENDATION FOR A SESSION IN MAY SHOULD BE ASKED TO PROPOSE ITELS FOR THE AGENDA. IN ORDER THAT THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA MAY BE ISSUED, IN THE EVENT OF AN AFFIRMATIVE DECISION, ON 10 APRIL (I.E. FIVE WELKS BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE SESSION, AS REQUIRED BY THE RULES OF PROCEDURE) CONTRACTING PARTIES ARE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT THEIR PROPOSALS FOR AGENDA ITEMS NOT LATER THAN 7 APRIL.

SENT BY

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## 2. LEETING OF MUISTERS

THE COUNCIL ALSO DISCUSSED AT THESE RECENT MEETINGS (SEE C/M/4) WHETHER IT WOULD BE DESTRABLE TO ARREGE FOR A MEETING OF MINISTERS DURING 1961. THE COUNCIL DECIDED TO RECOMMEND TO THE CONTRACTING PARTIES THAT A MINISTERIAL MEETING SHOULD BE HELD IN THE AUTUMN AT OR ABOUT THE TIME OF THE NINETERIAL SESSION, THE DATE FOR WHICH HAS BEEN FEXED AT 30 OCTOBER TO 25 NOVEMBER. I WAS ASKED TO SUBMIT THIS RECOMMENDATION TO THE CONTRACTING PARTIES FOR VOTING. IF THE RECOMMENDATION IS APPROVED, THE ELECT TIMING OF THE MEETING WILL BE DISCUSSED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE BY THE COUNCIL IN MAY, IN THE LIGHT OF THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES.

SILVEL CONTRACTING PARTIES<sup>3</sup> HAVE ALREADY ADVISED THAT THEY SUPPORT THIS RECOMMENDATION. OTHER CONTRACTING PARTIES ARE REQUESTED TO NOTIFY LE OF THEIR VOTES BY 7 APAIL.

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