

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 NOVEMBER 1960, THE CONTRACTING PARTIES DECIDED UPON 1-20 MAY 1961 AS THE DATE FOR THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION. WHETHER THERE IS A NEED FOR THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO MEET EARLIER 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 MEETING 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.

SIXTEEN CONTRACTING PARTIES<sup>1</sup> HAVE ALREADY ADVISED THAT THEY SUPPORT THIS RECOMMENDATION AND ONE CONTRACTING PARTY<sup>2</sup> 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 ITEMS 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 WEEKS 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.

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<sup>1</sup>CANADA, CHILE, CUBA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, DENMARK, FINLAND, GHANA, INDIA, INDONESIA, JAPAN, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, FEDERATION OF RHODESIA AND NYASALAND, SWEDEN, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, URUGUAY.

<sup>2</sup>PERU.

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