

GATT/AIR/313(SECRET)

12 DECEMBER 1962

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION BY AUSTRALIA, INVOKING THE DECISION OF 24 OCTOBER 1953¹
AS AMENDED BY THE DECISION OF 13 NOVEMBER 1956² - COFFEE

THE FOLLOWING NOTIFICATION CONCERNING PROPOSED ACTION IN RESPECT OF COFFEE BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PURSUANT TO THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DECISION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. IT IS CIRCULATED TO CONTRACTING PARTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 2 OF THAT DECISION AND THEIR ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO THE PROCEDURES SET OUT THEREIN.

"1. THE CONTRACTING PARTIES HAVE BEEN ADVISED³ OF THE DESIRE OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO UNBIND THE TARIFF CONCESSION ON COFFEE IN SCHEDULE I UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE XXVIII:4 IN ORDER TO ASSIST THE MARKETING IN AUSTRALIA OF COFFEE THE PRODUCE OF PAPUA/NEW GUINEA.

"2. WHEN THIS CONCESSION HAS BEEN UNBOUND IT IS PROPOSED TO INCREASE THE MOST-FAVOURLED-NATION RATE OF DUTY BUT TO MAINTAIN FREE ENTRY FOR COFFEE THE PRODUCE OF PAPUA/NEW GUINEA. THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE DECISION OF 24 OCTOBER 1953 (AS AMENDED BY DECISION OF 13 NOVEMBER 1956) TO CONSULT WITH ANY CONTRACTING PARTY WHICH CONSIDERS THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD THREATEN SUBSTANTIAL INJURY TO ITS TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA.

"3. ALTHOUGH ACTION UNDER THE DECISION OF 1953/56 CANNOT BE UNDERTAKEN WHILE THE ITEM IS STILL BOUND IN THE SCHEDULE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF CONSULTATIONS UNDER THE DECISION COULD BE HELD DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII:4. CONTRACTING PARTIES DESIRING TO REQUEST CONSULTATIONS UNDER THE DECISION ARE THEREFORE INVITED TO CONSULT WITH THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AT THEIR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE."

CONTRACTING PARTIES WISHING TO ENTER INTO CONSULTATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE DECISION SHOULD COMMUNICATE WITH THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WITHOUT DELAY AND, AT THE SAME TIME, INFORM ME.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE

¹BISD, SECOND SUPPLEMENT, PAGE 18.

²BISD, FIFTH SUPPLEMENT, PAGE 34.

³GATT/AIR/312(SECRET).

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