

AIRGRAM**TÉLÉGRAMME PAR AVION**

GATT/AIR/38 (SECRET)

11 DECEMBER 1953

SUBJECT: SCHEDULE XII - INDIAACTION UNDER ARTICLE XXVII - WITHDRAWAL OF CONCESSIONS INITIALLY NEGOTIATED WITH GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE NOT BECOME OR HAVE CEASED TO BE CONTRACTING PARTIES

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WAS RECEIVED BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON 10 DECEMBER 1953 FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE CONTRACTING PARTIES. THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DESIRES TO WITHDRAW TWO CONCESSIONS FROM ITS SCHEDULE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER 31 DECEMBER 1953. ONE OF THESE WAS NEGOTIATED WITH CHINA AT GENEVA AND THE OTHER WITH COLOMBIA AT ANNECY. ANY CONTRACTING PARTY WHICH CLAIMS TO HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST IN EITHER OF THESE ITEMS AND WISHES TO CONSULT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SHOULD NOTIFY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IF POSSIBLE PRIOR TO THAT DATE.

ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO THE REQUEST THAT THIS COMMUNICATION BE TREATED AS SECRET

"IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE XXVII, THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA INTEND TO WITHDRAW FROM SCHEDULE XII OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT IN APPROXIMATELY 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THIS NOTE THE FOLLOWING CONCESSIONS INITIALLY NEGOTIATED WITH CHINA AND COLOMBIA RESPECTIVELY:-

| <u>INDIAN CUSTOMS TARIFF ITEM NO.</u> | <u>DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCTS</u> | <u>RATE OF DUTY</u> |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 9(7) | CASSIA LIGNEA, GROUND OR UNGROUND | 50% AD VAL. |
| Ex 61 | EMERALDS, UNSET AND IMPORTED UNCUT | FREE. |

"INDIA DID NOT NEGOTIATE THE CONCESSION ON CASSIA LIGNEA JOINTLY WITH CHINA AND ANY OTHER CONTRACTING PARTY.

"INDIA DID NOT NEGOTIATE THE CONCESSION ON EMERALDS JOINTLY WITH COLOMBIA AND ANY OTHER CONTRACTING PARTY.

"THE CONCESSIONS ON THE TWO ITEMS CONCERNED ARE UNLIKELY TO BE OF SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST TO ANY COUNTRY OTHER THAN THE COUNTRIES WITH WHICH THEY WERE NEGOTIATED. THE TOTAL IMPORTS INTO INDIA OF CASSIA LIGNEA IN

1952-53 WERE VALUED AT LESS THAN RS. 2 MILLION AND AS REGARDS EMERALDS THERE WAS NO IMPORT FROM ANY CONTRACTING PARTY DURING 1952-53.

"IT IS INTENDED THAT THE CONCESSIONS IN QUESTION SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE EXPIRY OF THE NOTICE PERIOD OF 30 DAYS. THIS NOTE IS BEING CIRCULATED TO ALL CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE WITH THE REQUEST THAT THOSE DESIRING TO ENTER INTO CONSULTATIONS WITH INDIA WITH RESPECT TO ONE OR BOTH OF THE ITEMS IN QUESTION MAY DO SO AT AN EARLY DATE.

"IT IS THE DESIRE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO PRESERVE THE SECRET NATURE OF THE PROPOSALS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THEY ARE IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE CO-OPERATION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THIS END WILL BE APPRECIATED."

E. WYNDHAM WHITE