

SUBJECT: DECLARATION OF 24 OCTOBER 1953 ON THE CONTINUED APPLICATION OF SCHEDULES TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

1. THE DECLARATION EXTENDING THE ASSURED LIFE OF SCHEDULES TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT UNTIL 1 JULY 1955 REMAINED OPEN FOR SIGNATURE AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS UNTIL 31 DECEMBER 1953. THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA WAS UNABLE TO SIGN BY THAT DATE. IT NOW WISHES TO SIGN THE DECLARATION AND HAS REQUESTED AN EXTENSION OF THE TIME-LIMIT TO ENABLE IT TO DO SO. ACCORDINGLY A DRAFT DECISION GRANTING AN EXTENSION TO AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN PREPARED.

2. FURTHER, THE GOVERNMENTS OF AUSTRIA, GERMANY AND NORWAY SIGNED THE DECLARATION AD REFERENDUM ON 24 OCTOBER 1953 BUT WERE UNABLE TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY TO CONFIRM THEIR SIGNATURES BY 31 DECEMBER. THEY EXPECT, HOWEVER, TO OBTAIN THIS AUTHORITY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE GOVERNMENT OF GERMANY, AS ANNOUNCED IN G/73, HAS GIVEN AN UNDERTAKING THAT, PENDING SUCH CONFIRMATION, IT WILL CONSIDER ITSELF BOUND, ON THE SAME BASIS OF RECIPROCITY AS IS CONTAINED IN THE DECLARATION, BY THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE DECLARATION NOT TO INVOKE THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE XXVIII. THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRIA HAS GIVEN A SIMILAR UNDERTAKING. THE FOLLOWING DRAFT DECISION ALSO PROVIDES AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME DURING WHICH THESE THREE GOVERNMENTS CAN CONFIRM THEIR SIGNATURES.

3. THE CONTRACTING PARTIES ARE ASKED TO RECORD THEIR VOTES BY 12 FEBRUARY.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE

*Sent to C.I.S. except Japan.
" " L.O's " " + Chairman*

DRAFT DECISION EXTENDING THE TIME-LIMIT FOR SIGNATURE OF
THE DECLARATION ON THE CONTINUED APPLICATION OF SCHEDULES
TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

(Decision of ... February 1954)

CONSIDERING that the Declaration of 24 October 1953 on the continued application of schedules to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade remained open for signature until 31 December 1953,

CONSIDERING that the Government of Australia was not able to sign the Declaration by the said date and has requested an extension of time,

CONSIDERING that the Governments of Austria, Germany and Norway, which signed the Declaration ad referendum on 24 October 1953, were not able to obtain the necessary parliamentary authority to confirm their signatures by 31 December 1953, and

CONSIDERING the desirability of affording an additional opportunity to the Government of Australia to sign the Declaration and to the Governments of Austria, Germany and Norway to confirm their signatures,

THE CONTRACTING PARTIES DECIDE that, notwithstanding the provisions of the third paragraph of the Declaration,

- a) signature by the Government of Australia, if affixed not later than 30 April 1954, shall have the same effects as if it had been affixed by 31 December 1953, and
- b) the signatures of the Governments of Austria, Germany and Norway, if confirmed not later than 30 April 1954, shall have the same effects as if they had been confirmed by 31 December 1953; and

INSTRUCT the Executive Secretary to forward a copy of the present Decision to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.