

GATT/AIR/76

31 AUGUST 1955

SUBJECT: MEETING OF THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE
ON 22 SEPTEMBER 1955

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD AT THE PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA, COMMENCING AT 10 A.M. ON THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 1955. THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WILL BE TO CONSIDER WHAT MATTERS ARE LIKELY TO ARISE AT THE TENTH SESSION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES AND TO EXAMINE THE ADEQUACY OF THE DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE. AN ADVANCE AGENDA FOR THE SESSION WAS DISTRIBUTED IN DOCUMENT L/379 AND CONTRACTING PARTIES WISHING TO PROPOSE ADDITIONAL ITEMS WERE INVITED TO SUBMIT THEIR PROPOSALS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS BY 20 SEPTEMBER.

IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT FOR THEIR TENTH SESSION THE CONTRACTING PARTIES MIGHT FIX DEFINITE TIMES FOR DEALING WITH THE MORE IMPORTANT ITEMS ON THE AGENDA SO THAT MEMBERS OF DELEGATIONS WHO WILL BE ATTENDING THE SESSION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSION OF CERTAIN ITEMS CAN PLAN THEIR ARRIVAL AND THE LENGTH OF THEIR STAY IN GENEVA. THIS PROPOSAL HAS LED ME TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE CONTRACTING PARTIES MIGHT WISH TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAMME FOR DEALING WITH ALL OF THE AGENDA ITEMS AND TO FIX AN APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE FOR THE MEETINGS OF THOSE WORKING PARTIES WHICH, IT IS KNOWN, WILL HAVE TO BE ESTABLISHED. ACCORDINGLY, I AM DISTRIBUTING A DRAFT PROGRAMME IN DOCUMENT L/399. THE COMMITTEE MAY WISH TO CONSIDER SUBMITTING SOME SUCH PROGRAMME TO THE CONTRACTING PARTIES.

THERE IS ONE ITEM ON THE AGENDA FOR THE TENTH SESSION WHICH THE COMMITTEE MAY WISH TO DISCUSS. WHEN IT WAS PROPOSED AT THE NINTH SESSION THAT PANELS, RATHER THAN WORKING PARTIES, MIGHT BE APPOINTED TO CONDUCT CONSULTATIONS UNDER THE BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS PROVISIONS, ETC., AS WELL AS TO DEAL WITH COMPLAINTS UNDER ARTICLE XXIII, I WAS INVITED TO CONSIDER THIS QUESTION AND TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS. MY SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING THE EXTENDED USE OF PANELS ARE SET OUT IN L/392 AND IT WOULD PROBABLY EXPEDITE THE CONSIDERATION OF THIS QUESTION AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE TENTH SESSION IF THE COMMITTEE WERE TO HAVE SOME PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION.

THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE REPORT ON THE FRENCH SPECIAL TEMPORARY COMPENSATION TAX ON IMPORTS, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE HAS BEEN ASKED TO SUBMIT BY 1 SEPTEMBER, AND A REQUEST FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF FINLAND FOR AUTHORITY TO RENEGOTIATE SEVERAL ITEMS IN SCHEDULE XXIV (SECRET/52).

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE REQUESTED TO INFORM ME OF THE NAMES OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER CONTRACTING PARTIES SHOULD NOTIFY THE NAMES OF ANY OBSERVERS THEY PROPOSE TO SEND TO THE MEETING.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE