

**AIRGRAM**

**TÉLÉGRAMME PAR AVION**

GATT/AIR/97

18 SEP 1956

SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE OF MINISTERS AT THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF  
THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

THE SUGGESTION CONTAINED IN MY LETTER III-1-11-9 OF 8 APRIL 1956, WAS CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING OF THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE WHICH CLOSED ON 14 SEPTEMBER. THE COMMITTEE WAS NOT ABLE TO ARRIVE AT ANY DECISION OR RECOMMENDATION ON THIS MATTER BUT INSTRUCTED ME TO ENQUIRE FROM EACH OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES WHETHER IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE PART IN A MEETING AT A MINISTERIAL LEVEL DURING THE ELEVENTH SESSION FROM 12/16 NOVEMBER 1956. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THE AGENDA MIGHT INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF PROGRESS IN THE EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE, OBSTACLES TO FURTHER PROGRESS, AND POSSIBILITIES OF ACHIEVING FURTHER PROGRESS THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PARTICULARLY THROUGH THE GATT, AND (b) CONSIDERATION, FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY WORK AT THE OFFICIAL LEVEL, OF SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL ITEMS ON THE ELEVENTH SESSION AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF DECISION AND RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING THERETO. THIS SUGGESTION WILL BE CONSIDERED AGAIN BY THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING ON 10 OCTOBER 1956 IN THE LIGHT OF THE REPLIES TO THIS ENQUIRY. IF THE COMMITTEE AT THAT TIME DECIDES TO RECOMMEND TO THE CONTRACTING PARTIES THAT SUCH MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION SHOULD TAKE PLACE, THE COMMITTEE WILL ALSO FINALIZE THE AGENDA FOR THESE DISCUSSIONS.

IN THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION IN THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE DECISION OF A NUMBER OF CONTRACTING PARTIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE SITUATED IN EUROPE, WOULD DEPEND VERY MUCH ON WHETHER ALL OR A VERY LARGE MAJORITY OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES WOULD BE REPRESENTED AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, AND IN PARTICULAR WHETHER MINISTERS FROM A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF OVERSEAS COUNTRIES WOULD BE PRESENT. IT IS THEREFORE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT THE REPLIES OF ALL CONTRACTING PARTIES SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON 10 OCTOBER.

E. YOSH WHITE