

GATT/AIR/98

23 OCT 1956

SUBJECT: CONVENING OF A REGIONAL MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS PARTIES TO THE GATT

AS A RESULT OF THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE AT THE MEETINGS OF THE HEADS OF DELEGATION IN THE COURSE OF THE PRESENT SESSION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES, I HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MEETING OF THE TRADE COMMITTEE OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA IN SANTIAGO DE CHILE IN NOVEMBER TO CONVENE A MEETING OF THE LATIN AMERICAN REPUBLICS WHICH ARE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE. I SUGGEST THAT THIS MEETING BE HELD IN SANTIAGO DE CHILE DURING THE WEEK FROM 19 TO 24 NOVEMBER PREFERABLY ON TUESDAY 20 NOVEMBER. I DO NOT SUGGEST ANY DEFINITE AGENDA FOR THIS REGIONAL MEETING BUT I THINK THAT IT WOULD GIVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO OBTAIN A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE DURING THE PRESENT SESSION OF THE GATT AND TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON GATT PROBLEMS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO THEM.

AS I CANNOT LEAVE GENEVA SO LONG AS THE CONTRACTING PARTIES ARE IN SESSION I REGRET THAT I WOULD BE UNABLE TO ATTEND PERSONALLY BUT I HAVE NOMINATED M. JEAN ROYER DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO REPRESENT ME AT THAT MEETING. I AM SENDING AN INVITATION TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LATIN AMERICAN REPUBLICS WHICH ARE NOT YET MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE TO DESIGNATE OBSERVERS TO ATTEND THIS REGIONAL MEETING. IF AT THE END OF THIS MEETING THE GOVERNMENTS OF LATIN AMERICA FEEL THAT THIS INITIATIVE HAS PROVED USEFUL I INTEND TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING SUCH A REGIONAL MEETING REGULARLY ONCE A YEAR AND TO ATTEND MYSELF WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE