

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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TARIFF CONFERENCE - 1956

WITHDRAWAL OF CEYLON FROM THE TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS

The following communication, dated 6 April 1956, has been received from the Leader of the delegation of Ceylon:

"I have the honour to inform you that in the course of careful examination by my Government of the request lists submitted by the governments of several countries, it became clear that the acceptance of some of their requests would involve the reduction of the margins of preference now enjoyed by Commonwealth governments. My Government therefore found itself unable to frame its offers list on that basis without prior consultation with these governments. It has therefore initiated consultations but it is most unlikely that they could be finalized in time to enable my Government to prepare the offers list which is necessary to conduct the negotiations during the present Conference, with those countries which have submitted request lists to Ceylon. In these circumstances my Government has regretfully come to the conclusion that no useful purpose could be served by its continuing to further participate in the present negotiations and has therefore decided to withdraw.

"My Government however hopes that after its consultations with the Commonwealth governments have been concluded it may be able to resume negotiations with the governments of those countries that have submitted request lists."