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BFO

To: Mr. Kerlin

From: Mr. Chalmers

Subject: Preferential Automobile Registration Tax in Hong Kong.

In your memorandum of November 25 to the Bureau, submitting correspondence received by the Secretary from Mr. V. A. Dodge, President of Dodge and Seymour, regarding the preferential automobile registration tax recently established in Hong Kong, you indicated that the Secretary desired to be kept informed of any progress in the situation.

In my reply memorandum of December 1, I referred to the fact that local dealers had already protested to the Colonial Secretary the unfairness of the application of this tax to cars already in the hands of local dealers on the date of the establishment of the tax, and expressed the judgment that any adjustment on that transitory aspect of the problem would probably come as a result of these local efforts. According to a radiogram from Trade Commissioner Barringer, the Hong Kong government has recognized the fairness of the complaint, and has so modified its ordinance that the tax will apply only to such vehicles as were imported on and after the date of establishment of the tax.

Henry Chalmers,  
Chief, Division of Foreign Tariffs.

HC/ld