It would perhaps be useful, in formulating the work programme for Sub-Committee 1, to recall the considerations which led the Action Committee to create its three Sub-Committees. It was the intention of the Action Committee in establishing the Sub-Committees that these should be small bodies which would work with the utmost possible degree of informality.

At the outset of its work the Sub-Committee might wish to identify those barriers, falling within the scope of the Action Programme, which are of the greatest importance in restricting the export trade of less-developed countries and which the industrialized countries concerned have not so far been able to dismantle or modify in a manner satisfactory to the less-developed countries.

Once the Sub-Committee had identified these "hard-core" barriers maintained on the thirty or so items already studied by Committee III, it would then be appropriate for it to enter into informal but thorough-going discussions with the individual countries maintaining these barriers. It is to be hoped that such discussions would enable the Committee to find ways and means of overcoming the difficulties with which the industrialized countries concerned are faced in dismantling or modifying the restrictions in question. Following these discussions with individual industrialized countries, the Committee might make appropriate recommendations or secure agreement, between the industrialized countries in question and the less-developed countries having a particular interest in the matter, as to what progress could reasonably be made.

It is possible that the selection of priorities in the manner suggested above might give rise to some misunderstandings and concern. It must, therefore, be emphasized that this method of work would in no way imply that the other problems which still exist should be ignored or that the Action Programme as such should be reduced to a list of priority items. In this connexion it might be worthwhile recalling that detailed studies and discussions of the type now proposed for the work of this Sub-Committee were, in fact, carried out three or four years ago within the framework of Committee III which established working parties for this purpose. Since then a substantial amount of progress has been made in the elimination or appropriate modification of barriers and, in respect of
most commodities, it is probable that the problems are not the same as those existing at the time of the Committee III studies. This Sub-Committee would have to take account of this progress and direct its efforts to finding solutions to those remaining "hard-core" problems.

In summarizing then, it would seem wise for the Sub-Committee to concentrate on a more limited range of problems in order to obtain rapid progress in fields of particular importance to the less-developed countries and in which little progress has hitherto been made. By establishing this list of priorities, the Sub-Committee would be able to concentrate its attention on selected barriers maintained by individual industrialized countries on particular products of significant interest to specific less-developed countries and recommend solutions to eliminate or appropriately modify them.

When considering which particular barriers on which to concentrate its work, the Sub-Committee would, I think, find it appropriate to recognize that tariffs as such will be covered in the forthcoming Kennedy Round and that thus it might be more fruitful for it to focus its attention on non-tariff barriers, particularly quantitative restrictions and internal charges. In this connexion, it should be noted that the Trade Negotiations Committee, which is responsible for the planning and conduct of the forthcoming negotiations, has established a Sub-Committee to deal specifically with the participation of the less-developed countries; this Sub-Committee of the Trade Negotiations Committee will have among its tasks that of ensuring that items of interest to the less-developed countries, which are, of course, known to it, are included in the negotiations and it would seem undesirable to introduce an element of duplication in this respect. This is not, however, to say that the Sub-Committee will have nothing to do in the field of tariffs. It might, after it has scrutinized the commodities of interest to the less-developed countries and the barriers which restrict their access to the industrialized countries, be in a position to make recommendations to the Sub-Committee of the Trade Negotiations Committee on the participation of the less-developed countries in the forthcoming trade negotiations. Initially, however, it would seem appropriate for this Sub-Committee to concentrate on non-tariff barriers.