ACTIVITIES OF THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Note by the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee

1. At the meeting of the Agriculture Committee on 18/19 January 1968 to determine a work programme for the implementation of its terms of reference, the Committee agreed "to select certain products to which, in the preparatory stage, the information should relate. This would leave open the possibility of including other products at a later date" (COM.AG/9 of 26 January 1968, second paragraph).

2. Accordingly, eight product sectors were defined more or less in Annex II of document COM.AG/9 and were the subject of a questionnaire (Annex I to that document). The replies to that questionnaire were circulated in the COM.AG/W... series and the analyses thereof prepared by the secretariat in the series Spec(69)8 to 22.

3. A rapid examination of these replies and of the tables prepared subsequently reveals that the list of products in respect of which contracting parties have notified their non-tariff barriers is limited to the enumeration set forth in the Annex hereto.

4. It appears therefore that a substantial proportion of the agricultural products enumerated in Chapters 1-24 of the BTN have so far been omitted from the procedures for notification and subsequent examination contemplated by the Committee in respect of the eight basic sectors.

5. One can consider that the Committee's decision to limit its examination in a first stage to eight basic sectors was particularly wise in view of the scope and considerable depth of the analyses.

6. One can nevertheless consider, as the work continues on the eight basic sectors, that a certain disequilibrium might develop at some stage because of the substantial number of agricultural products that were left outside the field of consideration of the Committee in the initial stage.

7. On the other hand, one can infer from the experience acquired during the current examination that the investigations that national administrations have to carry out in order to be able to make the various notifications require a great deal of time and effort. It would therefore be illogical to complete the identification and quantification of the non-tariff barriers in respect of products in the eight sectors selected without giving thought now to the considerable time that would be required for extending this exercise to agricultural products that have not yet been included.

8. For these reasons, I submit the following proposal for approval by the Council, as the body responsible for co-ordinating the work of the Committees:
(a) The countries members of the Agriculture Committee shall notify to the secretariat a list and detailed description of the non-tariff barriers encountered by their exports of the products included in Chapters 1-24 of the BTN, other than those mentioned in the Annex hereto and in document COM.IND/12 of 19 June 1969.

(b) The notifications must be submitted by 30 November 1969.

(c) This additional set of notifications, like the notifications on the eight basic sectors, will be examined by the Agriculture Committee at one of its subsequent meetings.

(d) Having regard to the fact that the present suggestion is made with a view to avoiding any interruption of the work of the contracting parties in order to give the national administrations time to collect the necessary data; having regard also to the fact that the notification procedure for these additional products differs from that followed for notifying products included in the eight sectors, this supplementary exercise should be kept somewhat separate in character from the one already in hand. In particular, examination of these additional items should not hold up the identification and quantification procedures already initiated in respect of the eight product sectors.

9. So far as the date of the next meeting of the Agriculture Committee is concerned, it is by now apparent that delays in submitting the notifications provided for in paragraph 15 of document COM.AG/12 of 26 March 1969 are such that it has not yet been possible to circulate these notifications to the members of the Committee. It is also probable that the limited time remaining to the secretariat for compiling and processing this documentation would not leave sufficient time to the members of the Committee to study the documents.

10. In view of this factual situation, I suggest:

(a) That a short meeting of the Committee should be held on 8, 9 and 10 October next in order to examine: the particular problem of oilseeds and oils (COM.TD/69, paragraph 25 of 30 June 1969); the question of the Resolution of the CONTRACTING PARTIES of 1955 on the disposal of surpluses (SR.25/8 of 16 December 1968); and the question of products which have been referred to the agriculture Committee by the Committee on Industrial Products (COM.IND/12, paragraph 1 of 19 June 1969).

(b) That an extended meeting of the Committee should be held, commencing on 17 November, to deal with the work programme outlined in document COM.AG/12 of 26 March 1969.
ANNEX

Main Brussels Nomenclature Headings Falling Within Eight Sectors Covered By Questionnaire (COM.AG/9, Annex I)

1. Dairy products
   04.01  022.3  Milk, fresh
   04.02  022.1  Milk, preserved, concentrated or sweetened
                 (including skimmed and whole milk powders)
   04.03  022.2
   04.04  023.0  Butter, near-butters
   04.04  024.0  Cheese

2. Grains
   (a) Wheat
       10.01  041.0  Wheat
   (b) Coarse grains
       10.02  045.1  Rye
       10.03  043.0  Barley
       10.04  045.2  Oats
       10.05  044.0  Maize
       10.07  045.9  Sorghum and other grains
                       (except rice, BN 10.06)

3. Bovine meat
   01.02  001.1  Live cattle
   ex 02.01  011.1  Meat of bovine animals, fresh, chilled or frozen
   ex 16.01  ex 013.4  Sausages, etc.
   ex 16.02  ex 013.8  Other prepared or preserved meat
   ex 16.03  ex 013.3  Meat extracts and meat juices

4. Other meats
   (a) Poultry
       01.05  001.4  Live poultry
       02.02  011.4  Dead poultry, fresh, chilled or frozen
       02.03  011.8(1)  Poultry livers, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted
                           or in brine

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1 The corresponding SITC (Revised) numbers are shown in the second column.
(b) **Live pigs and pig meat**

- **01.03** 001.3 Live pigs
- **ex 02.01** 011.3 Pig meat, fresh, chilled or frozen
- **ex 02.05** ex 411.3(1) Unrendered pig fat

(c) **Mutton and lamb**

- **ex 01.04** ex 001.2 Live sheep
- **ex 02.01** ex 011.2 Mutton and lamb

(d) **Prepared meat**

- **ex 16.01** ex 013.4 Sausages, etc.
- **ex 16.02** ex 013.8 Other prepared or preserved meat
- **ex 16.03** ex 013.3 Meat extracts and meat juices

5. **Fruit and vegetables**

(a) **Fruit**

- **ex 08.01** 051.7(1)
- **051.9(5)**
- **052.0(1)**
- Dates, coconuts, Brazil nuts, cashew nuts, pine-apples, avocados, mangoes, guavas and mangoes, fresh or dried (i.e. all 08.01 except bananas)

- **08.02** 051.1
- **051.2**
- Citrus fruit, fresh or dried

- **08.03** 051.9(1)
- **052.0(2)**
- Figs, fresh or dried

- **08.04** 051.5
- **052.0(3)**
- Grapes, fresh or dried

- **08.05** 051.7(2)
- Nuts other than those under 08.01, fresh or dried

- **08.06** 051.4
- **051.9(2)**
- Apples, pears, quinces, fresh

- **08.07** 051.9(3)
- Stone fruit, fresh

- **08.08** 051.9(4)
- Berries, fresh

- **08.09** 051.9(9)
- Other fruit, fresh

- **08.10** 053.6(1)
- Fruit preserved by freezing, not containing added sugar

- **08.11** 053.6(3)
- Fruit provisionally preserved

- **08.12** 052.0(9)
- Fruit, dried, other than that under 08.01 to 08.05
(a) **Fruit** (cont'd)

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(b) **Vegetables**

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6. **Vegetable oils and seeds**

(a) **Oilseeds**

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(b) **Vegetable oils**

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(c) **Oilcake**

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7. **Unmanufactured tobacco**

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8. **Wine**

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- Fruit prepared or preserved by vinegar or acetic acid
- Fruit prepared by freezing, containing added sugar
- Fruit, preserved by sugar
- Fruit, preserved other than by freezing or by sugar (i.e. canned fruit)
- Fruit juices
- Vegetables, fresh or chilled
- Vegetables, frozen
- Vegetables, provisionally preserved
- Dried, dehydrated or evaporated vegetables
- Dried leguminous vegetables
- Manioc, arrowroot, salep, Jerusalem artichokes, sweet potatoes, etc.
- Vegetables, prepared or preserved by vinegar or acetic acid
- Vegetables, prepared or preserved other than by vinegar or acetic acid (i.e. canned vegetables)
- Oilseeds
- Flours or meals of oilseeds or oleaginous fruit, non-defatted
- Fixed vegetable oils
- Oilcake
- Unmanufactured tobacco
- Grape must, partly fermented
- Wine
- Vermouths