PREPARATIONS BY COUNCIL

(Note by the Executive Secretary)

Several items which will appear on the provisional agenda for the twentieth session were examined by the Council at its meeting in February and a number of others are being examined at the current meeting. Consequently, preparations for the treatment of these items at the session will have been made by Council. Other items to be included in the agenda for the session might also be reviewed by Council with a view to making arrangements for necessary preparatory work to be done; such items are listed below:

1. **IMPACT OF COMMODITY PROBLEMS ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

   The Council may wish to consider whether the Commodities Working Party need be convened this year to prepare for the annual review by the CONTRACTING PARTIES under the Resolution of 17 November 1956 (55/26).

2. **DISPOSAL OF COMMODITY SURPLUSES**

   It was agreed at the nineteenth session that this item should be retained on the agenda and that contracting parties should again be requested to submit reports on any disposal or liquidation operations in which they may have been engaged since the last session; further, the Executive Secretary was requested to follow developments in this field and the activities of other intergovernmental organizations and to report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

3. **SUBSIDIES**

   Paragraph 5 of Article XVI provides that:

   "The CONTRACTING PARTIES shall review the operation of the provisions of this Article from time to time with a view to examining its effectiveness in the light of actual experience, in promoting the objectives of this Agreement and avoiding subsidization seriously prejudicial to the trade or interests of contracting parties."

The Panel appointed some years ago carried out preparatory work and presented a number of reports which include material assembled by the Panel to enable the CONTRACTING PARTIES to carry out the first review. At the nineteenth session the CONTRACTING PARTIES postponed the review until 1962.
4. "HARD-CORE" WAIVER

By their Decision of 8 December 1961 (10S/35) the CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed to receive requests for "concurrence", pursuant to the Decision of 5 March 1955, until 31 December 1962. This matter is to be reviewed again at the twentieth session.

5. ARTICLE XVIII

Under paragraph 6 of Article XVIII the measures applied by contracting parties pursuant to the provisions of Sections C and D of the Article are to be reviewed annually. The third review was carried out at the nineteenth session (10S/106).

6. EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

(a) The member States may wish to furnish information concerning the implementation of the Rome Treaty.

(b) At the nineteenth session (SR.19/7) the Executive Secretary agreed to provide an objective juridical opinion on the interpretation and application of paragraph 5(a) of Article XXXIV.

7. EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

The member States may wish to furnish information concerning the implementation of the Stockholm Convention.

8. LATIN AMERICAN FREE TRADE AREA

As indicated at the nineteenth session (SR.19/12) the member States may wish to furnish information on the implementation of the Montevideo Treaty and on the accession of Colombia and Ecuador.

9. NICARAGUA-EL SALVADOR FREE TRADE AREA

and

CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AREA

The Government of Nicaragua furnishes annual reports in accordance with the Decisions of 25 October 1951 (Vol.II/30) and 13 November 1956 (58/29).

10. PROVISIONAL ACCESSION OF SWITZERLAND

Under paragraph 1(b) of the Declaration of 22 November 1958 (76/19) the Government of Switzerland is required to submit an annual report and, if requested, to enter into consultations with the CONTRACTING PARTIES.
11. **PROVISIONAL ACCESSION OF ARGENTINA**

The Declaration of 15 November 1960 (9S/11) has not entered into force, but would in any case expire on 31 December 1962. Similarly, the Decision of the same date, inviting Argentina to participate in the work of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, will expire at the end of 1962.

12. **REPORTS UNDER WAIVERS**

(a) **Belgian import restrictions**

The Decision of 3 December 1955 (4S/22) will expire on 31 December 1962.

(b) **Ceylon - temporary duty increases**

The Decision of 10 April 1961 (10S/35) will expire on 31 December 1962. Under the terms of the waiver, the Government of Ceylon is to submit a report by 15 September and to consult with the CONTRACTING PARTIES during the session.

(c) **France/Germany - trade with the Saar**

Under the Decision of 22 November 1957 (4S/30) the Governments of France and the Federal Republic are required to submit a report by 1 September.

(d) **German import restrictions**

The Decision of 30 May 1959 (8S/31) will expire at the close of the twentieth session.

(e) **Italian special customs treatment for Libyan products**

Under the Decision of 9 October 1952 (18/14), extended by the Decision of 16 November 1961 (10S/45), the Governments of Italy and Libya are required to submit reports by 1 September.

(f) **Peruvian import surcharges**

Under the Decision of 6 December 1961 (10S/50) Peru is required to submit by 15 September 1962 a report and a "plan and schedule" for the elimination of the surcharges by 30 April 1963.

(g) **Rhodesia and Nyasaland - treatment of products of United Kingdom territories**

Under the Decision of 19 November 1960 (9S/47) the Government of the Federation is required to submit an annual report.
(h) United Kingdom/Article I

Under the Decision of 24 October 1953 (28/20) the United Kingdom is required to submit an annual report.

(i) United Kingdom/Dependent Overseas Territories

Under the Decision of 5 March 1955 (38/21), the United Kingdom is required to submit an annual report.

(j) United States import restrictions

Under the Decision of 5 March 1955 (38/32), the CONTRACTING PARTIES are required to review annually any action taken under the Decision on the basis of a report to be submitted by the Government of the United States.

(k) Uruguayan import surcharges

The Decision of 8 May 1961 (108/51) will expire on 1 July 1963. Under the terms of their waiver the Government of Uruguay is required to submit a report by 15 September and to consult with the CONTRACTING PARTIES during the session.