THE CONTRACTING PARTIES have decided to convene a Conference in the course of which will be conducted negotiations falling under the following headings:

(i) General round of negotiations between contracting parties;
(ii) Negotiations for accession to the General Agreement of Cambodia, Israel and any other government invited by the CONTRACTING PARTIES;
(iii) Negotiations on the Common Tariff of the European Economic Community under Article XXIV:6;
(iv) Re-negotiations under Article XXVIII.

II. Time-table of the Conference

The Conference shall deal with the above subjects in accordance with the following time-table:

(i) to convene the Conference on 1 September 1960 and that the first part of the Conference will be devoted to the carrying out of re-negotiations under Article XXIV:6 with the European Economic Community with a view to concluding such re-negotiations by Christmas 1960, and thereby initiating the negotiations for new concessions in good time;

(ii) to urge all the participating governments to make the necessary arrangements and to give the necessary instructions to enable their delegations to conclude the re-negotiations under Article XXIV:6 by Christmas 1960;

(iii) taking into account what is said in paragraphs (i) and (ii) above, to set 2 January 1961 as a target date for the opening of negotiations for new concessions;

(iv) to include in the terms of reference of the Tariff Negotiations Committee instructions to follow closely the course of the re-negotiations under Article XXIV:6, to review their progress from time to time and to assist in bringing them to a conclusion before 2 January 1961, or soon thereafter;
(v) to agree that, for reasons of convenience, any re-negotiations which
governments intend to undertake before the end of the three-year
period of firm validity, should take place during the first part of
the Tariff Conference, i.e., from 1 September 1960 to 24 December
1960; and that, to that effect, these governments be invited to sub­
mit any notifications under Article XXVIII as early as possible and
not later than 15 July 1960;

(yi) to give to Cambodia, and to any other government invited to negotiate
with a view to accession at this time, an opportunity to carry out
such negotiations during the second part of the Conference, i.e.,
during the early part of 1961.

III. General Round of Negotiations

(a) Aim of the Negotiations

The CONTRACTING PARTIES, recognizing that tariff and non-tariff barriers
often constitute serious obstacles to trade, have decided to hold negotiations
based on the principles of Article XXVIII bis of the General Agreement and
conducted with due regard to the objectives of the General Agreement.

The negotiations shall be directed towards the reduction of tariffs and
other barriers to trade and shall aim at the exchange of reciprocal and mutually
advantageous concessions. Governments participating in the negotiations shall
endeavour through common effort to ensure that the results of the negotiations
make the maximum practicable contribution to the expansion of trade.

(b) Scope of the Negotiations

(i) Participating countries may request concessions on products of which
they individually, or collectively are, or are likely to be, the prin­
cipal suppliers to the countries from which the concessions are asked.
This rule shall not apply to prevent a country not a principal
supplier from making a request, but the country concerned may invoke
the principal supplier rule if the principal supplier of the product
is not participating in the negotiations or is not a contracting party
to the General Agreement.

(ii) Shall be subject to negotiation in accordance with the relevant rules:
- customs duties and other charges on imports as provided in
  Article II;
- the protection afforded through the operation of import monopolies,
  as provided in Article II;
- certain regulations provided for in paragraphs 5 and 6 of
  Article III;
- certain quotas provided for in Article IV.

(e) Multilateral Character of the Negotiations

Participating governments agree to make a maximum effort towards achieving
the objectives of the negotiations in accordance with Article XXVIII bis of the
revised General Agreement and other relevant provisions; and to this end shall
co-operate to further their multilateral character by making overall con­
sessions commensurate with the overall concessions received.
IV. Accession to the General Agreement

As mentioned above, Cambodia, Israel and any other government which may be invited by the CONTRACTING PARTIES will be given an opportunity to carry out negotiations with a view to acceding to the General Agreement. The procedural steps are the same as those for contracting parties. In granting tariff concessions, acceding governments will take into consideration the indirect benefits which they will receive from the concessions exchanged between contracting parties at earlier conferences and those which will result from new negotiations among contracting parties. Similarly, all the participating governments will be expected to take into consideration the indirect benefits which they will receive from the negotiations between the acceding governments themselves and between them and the contracting parties.

V. Negotiations under Article XXIV:6

The time-table for these negotiations is contained in Sections II and VII.

VI. Re-negotiations under Article XXVIII

The time-table for these negotiations is contained in Section II.

VII. The Tariff Negotiations Committee

With a view to facilitating the negotiations and ensuring the fullest possible multilateral effort to achieve their objectives, a Tariff Negotiations Committee, composed of all the governments which have submitted consolidated lists of offers, shall be established. The functions and terms of reference shall be established. The functions and terms of reference of the Committee shall be the following:

(a) The Committee shall exercise its good offices for the purpose of achieving the maximum practicable progress towards the objectives of the Conference.

(b) The Committee shall review the consolidated offers as soon as practicable after the opening of the negotiations, at any time deemed appropriate and useful during the Conference and again in the final phase of the negotiations; provided that the opening of negotiations bilaterally shall in no way be conditioned upon the carrying out of the initial review referred to above.

(c) The Committee shall be at the disposal of any country or group of countries to arrange for negotiations on a triangular or multilateral basis to improve the scope of concessions.

(d) The Committee shall follow closely the course of the re-negotiations under Article XXIV:6, review their progress from time to time, and assist participating countries in eliminating difficulties which might be holding up their re-negotiations.

(e) Upon the request of any participating country, the Committee shall consider any problems that such country may believe are impeding or unduly delaying the successful conclusion of negotiations.
(f) The Committee may give advice and make recommendations on any of the foregoing matters and in so doing shall be guided by the principles of Article XXIX and any other relevant provisions.

(g) The Committee will draft the instrument or instruments, which will embody the results of the negotiations. The draft or drafts will be submitted, if necessary by postal ballot, to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for their approval.

Participating governments shall give full consideration to the advice and recommendations of the Tariff Negotiations Committee. Each country retains the right to determine for itself whether to accept such advice or recommendations and to decide on the basis of its own assessment whether to accept the results of the negotiations.

The Committee shall appoint a Tariff Negotiations Working Party to assist in the conduct of the negotiations and may appoint such other subsidiary bodies as may assist the Committee in carrying out its functions.

The Committee shall make arrangements to prevent the disclosure of confidential material.
VIII. Methods of Negotiation

The negotiations shall be conducted in accordance with the following rules:

(a) The negotiations shall be conducted on a selective product-by-product basis which will afford adequate opportunity to take into account the needs of individual countries and individual industries. Participating governments will be free not to grant concessions on particular products and, in the granting of a concession they may reduce the duty, bind it at its then existing level, or undertake not to raise it above a specified higher level.

(b) No participating government shall be required to grant unilateral concessions, or to grant concessions to other governments without receiving adequate concessions in return.

(c) The binding against increase of low duties or of duty-free treatment shall, in principle, be recognized as a concession equivalent in value to the reduction of high duties. This rule takes account, inter alia, of the position of countries which, whilst maintaining low or moderate duties on all or most of the products imported from their principal suppliers, find their exports or potential exports generally impeded by high rates of duty.

(d) In so far as negotiations relate to preferences, the applicable provisions of the General Agreement shall be applied in accordance with the rules, as relevant, followed hitherto in negotiations sponsored by the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

(e) Participating governments will be expected to take into consideration the indirect benefits which they will receive from the negotiations between other governments.

The participating governments shall refrain from increases in tariffs and other protective measures inconsistent with the principles of the General Agreement and designed to improve their bargaining position in preparation for the negotiations.

IX. Preparations for the Conference

In preparation for the negotiations the following time-table shall be observed:

A. General round of Negotiations

1. In order to facilitate the task of the United States authorities preliminary lists of products should be sent to the United States Government in August or September 1959. If a country should need
more time the United States would still take into consideration lists received before 31 October 1959. Forty copies should be sent to the secretariat at least by 31 October 1959 for distribution to contracting parties.

2. Lists of requests with the indication of the rates requested would be submitted not later than 1 August 1960. Forty copies should be sent simultaneously to the secretariat for distribution to the contracting parties.

3. As early as possible, but at the latest simultaneously with the lists of requests, each participating government shall send to the Executive Secretary two copies of the latest edition of its Customs Tariff and of its foreign trade statistics for 1958 and 1959. The same information should be sent to any other contracting party which requests it, together with such additional information as may be requested and is readily available.

4. Consolidated lists of offers should be prepared in time for distribution on the day the general round of negotiations opens.

5. Models for the lists mentioned in paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 of Section A above are attached hereto.

B. Negotiations for Accession

Procedurally, acceding governments are required to submit the same kinds of lists and to follow the same time-table as contracting parties. Models for the lists mentioned in paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 of Section A above are attached hereto.

C. Negotiations on the Common Tariff of the European Economic Community under Article XXIV:6

1. The Commission of the EEC agreed to submit towards the end of 1959 its Common Tariff, including rates for the large part if not all of the products contained in List G annexed to the Rome Treaty.

2. The Community will submit, by 1 May 1960, a complete list of the items bound by the Six under the GATT, with an indication of the contracting party with which each item was initially negotiated. This list will also indicate the items on which the Community feels the "internal compensation" to be sufficient; those on which it will offer compensation, and those for which it will claim a "credit".

3. At the same time as the list of bound items the Community will furnish statistical information on imports into the territories of the Six as a whole for 1958; statistical information relating to 1959 might have to be sent at a later date. The Community would, of course, supply supplementary data on request in the course of the negotiations.
4. If any contracting party should wish to submit to the Community a list of suggestions of items on which it would like to receive compensation this would provide welcome guidance to the Community in the preparation of its offers.

5. At the opening of the Conference on 1 September 1960 the Community will submit its offers of compensation to the affected contracting parties.