It was agreed during the sixteenth session that the next Committee II consultations should take place prior to the commencement of the seventeenth session. The dates fixed for the next meetings of the Committee are 3 to 21 October 1960. It is intended that the first week of the meetings will be devoted to country consultations whereas the remaining time will be used to consider other aspects of the work programme of the Committee.

At the last session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES the secretariat was requested to draw up a firm schedule for the remaining consultations which would be acceptable to the countries concerned. The secretariat has canvassed countries yet to be consulted with a view to obtaining firm commitments as to whether or not they will be available for consultation. To date, only two countries, Ghana and Israel, have firmly undertaken to consult. (See GATT/AIR/206). The secretariat is, however, continuing negotiations with a number of other countries in the hope that it will be possible to complete the individual country consultations before the seventeenth session. Contracting parties will be informed immediately should other countries undertake to consult.

In accordance with the procedures for consultations on agricultural policies outlined in document COM.II/4 and adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES during the fourteenth session, the secretariat has invited Ghana and Israel to make available to the secretariat, for circulation to contracting parties, the necessary background and commodity information on which the consultations should be based. Material on non-tariff measures for the protection of agriculture or in support of incomes of agricultural producers has already been received from the Governments of Ghana and Israel and circulated to contracting parties. (See COM.II/40(e) and COM.II/40(f)).

As proposed in paragraph 2 of COM.II/4, the Governments of Ghana and Israel have been requested to supply commodity information on dairy products, meat, cereals, sugar, vegetable oils and fish. Contracting parties who wish to do so are asked to notify any additions to this list of products that they would wish to see included in the consultations. In order that the countries being consulted may have sufficient time to prepare material, the contracting parties wishing to suggest additions are asked to notify the secretariat as soon as possible and not later than 5 September.