Committee III - Expansion of Trade

PROCEDURES AND PROGRAMME
OF WORK FOR COMMITTEE III

At its meeting on 12 November 1959, Committee III agreed that the points set out below should form the basis of the Committee's work at its meeting in March 1960.

The four sections of work to be dealt with by the Committee are:

1. Further examination of the matters discussed in the second report of the Committee (document L/1063).
2. Examination of obstacles to trade in products other than those for which some examination has already been made.
3. Section II(2) of the Committee's work programme set out in the first report of Committee III (document COM.III/1).
4. Section II(3) of the Committee's work programme set out in the first report of Committee III (document COM.III/1).

The Committee agreed that the following points required study under each of the four heads:

On Item I (Examination of the matters which the Committee intends to study further), this further study should take the form of an examination of the trade effects of the particular measures which have already been identified by the Committee and an investigation of the possibilities of expanding trade through their rapid reduction or elimination. It would be helpful if, where possible, less-developed countries were able to give an indication of the increase in exports of various items which they would hope to achieve as a result of the elimination of barriers to trade.

On Item 2 (Examination of obstacles to trade in products other than those for which some examination has already been made), the Committee will determine the second list of products for examination.

As regards points 1 and 2 above, the Committee intends the study to be conducted objectively in the spirit of the common interest of all contracting parties in moving rapidly towards the achievement of the basic objective of Committee III.
Item 3 (Section II(2) of the Committee's work programme set out in document COM.III/1), requires the Committee to make "a study of the possibility of channelling of expansion of existing industries or starting of new industries by less-developed countries into directions where such countries will be economically efficient producers". In accordance with paragraph 15 of the second report of the Committee, the secretariat has invited less-developed countries to list and furnish information in regard to manufactured products which should in their opinion be dealt with on a basis of priority (doc. Spec(59)/165 reproduced as annex A to this document). If a thorough study of this section of the work programme is to be carried out, it would appear to be necessary for the Committee to be furnished with supporting information about plans which may exist for individual less-developed countries for development of the items selected and for the increase of their export earning capacity. The Committee will recall that paragraph 13 of its second report recommends that "contracting parties, in particularly industrialized countries . . . should in their economic policies take into account the urgent need of less-developed countries to increase their export earnings and should as far as possible avoid hindrance to the import of such goods of such countries." The Committee will therefore have to address itself to the question of the scope for industrialized countries to open their markets to exports of industrial goods from less-developed countries, and the possibility which may exist for the reduction or removal of barriers in the industrialized countries. The Committee should also give due weight to the possibilities of the expansion of trade between the less-developed countries themselves.

Item 4 (Section II(3) of the Committee's work programme), requires a study of measures which might be taken by less-developed countries . . . . to improve their own production and marketing techniques and an examination of trade controls or other internal measures which might disrupt export or import trade between less-developed countries. In accordance with paragraph 16 of the second report of the Committee, the secretariat has invited members of the Committee to submit information and analytical comments on their experience in the matters referred to which might assist the Committee in its work (see annex A), and in this connexion comments from importing countries will be particularly useful. Some time should be allowed at the March 1960 meeting for a preliminary examination of the material which it is hoped will come to hand.
ANNEX A

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR COMMITTEE III

Note by the Secretariat

At its meeting held between 28 September and 6 October 1959, Committee III decided (see paragraph 15 of the second report of Committee III on Expansion of Trade - document L/1063) that a start should be made on Section II.2 of its work programme (see first report of Committee III - document COM,III/1). Section II.2 requires that a study be made of the possibility of channelling expansion of existing industries or starting of new industries by less-developed countries into directions where such countries will be economically efficient producers. In accordance with the decision of Committee III, less-developed countries are invited to list and furnish information in regard to manufactured products which should, in their opinion, be dealt with on a basis of priority; this material should be made available to the secretariat by 15 January 1960.

Committee III also decided (see paragraph 16 of the second report of Committee III - document L/1063) that a start should be made on Section II.3 of its work programme (first report of Committee III - document COM,III/1). Section II.3 requires that a study be made of measures which might be taken by less-developed countries to improve their production and marketing techniques and an examination of trade controls or other internal measures which might be discouraging exports of their products or imports from other less-developed countries. In accordance with the decision of Committee III, members of the Committee are invited to submit information and analytical comments on their experience in these matters which might assist the Committee in its further work. Such material should be made available to the secretariat by 15 January 1960.