During their nineteenth session the CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed that certain tasks set by Ministers during their November meeting, should be entrusted to Committee III. The Committee is required as part of these tasks to take immediate steps to establish specific programmes of action for the progressive reduction and elimination of barriers to the exports of less-developed countries. The barriers here referred to had been identified to a very large extent by Committee III during its earlier examination of some thirty primary, semi-manufactured and manufactured products selected by the less-developed countries themselves as being of particular importance to their export earnings. Much of this information will be of value to the Committee, although some rearrangement of the material available appears necessary to facilitate the new work. The secretariat will undertake this rearrangement in time for the Committee's meeting on 19 February 1962, but as some of the information may be outdated the co-operation of contracting parties is now being sought in an effort to enable up-to-date information to be placed before the Committee.

Contracting parties will recall that the Committee's examination of the first list of products¹, as requested by the less-developed countries, was carried out early in 1960. The Commodity schedules which had been prepared by the secretariat on tariffs, quantitative restrictions, internal fiscal charges, etc., and on which this first examination was based, are now approximately two years old. These schedules are contained in documents COM.III/7/Rev.1 and Addenda. Similarly the background schedules prepared for the second list of products² during the latter part of 1960, undoubtedly

¹These products are: cocoa, coffee, copper, cotton, cotton manufactures, jute manufactures, lead, oilseeds and vegetable oils, tea, timber and tobacco.

²These products are: bicycles, sewing machines, electric fans, diesel engines, electric motors, finished leather and leather goods, iron ore, aluminium, alumina and bauxite and sports goods.
also require revision. These schedules are contained in documents COM.III/29/Rev.1 and Addenda. In view of the importance attached by the ministerial meeting and by the CONTRACTING PARTIES during the nineteenth session to the work now entrusted to the Committee, contracting parties are requested to examine these schedules and advise the secretariat of any amendments which they consider necessary. Such amendments should be submitted as early as possible before 31 January 1962.

In addition, it will be noted that the schedules on the first and second list of products do not include particulars regarding the import policies of all contracting parties. Contracting parties whose import policies are not covered by these schedules are invited to submit the relevant information for the use of the Committee.

It is felt that the information contained in the schedules pertaining to the third list of products examined by the Committee (documents COM.III/53 - COM.III/59) is sufficiently complete and up to date to reflect accurately the present position regarding barriers confronting exports of these products. However, information relating to any subsequent changes or to other amendments considered necessary should also be supplied to the secretariat by 31 January 1962.

1Particulars concerning the import policies of the following countries, are not covered by the schedules on the first list of products examined by the Committee (COM.III/7/Rev.1 series): Argentina, Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, Chile, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Greece, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Israel, Malaya, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Tanganyika, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

Information from the following countries is required to complete the schedules covering the second list of products examined by the Committee (COM.III/29/Rev.1 series): Argentina, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Tanganyika, Tunisia and Yugoslavia.