At its meetings on 8-11 October 1962 the Committee asked the secretariat to report on the feasibility of certain new tariff studies when the Committee reconvened. These studies are referred to in paragraph 8 of the Interim Report (L/1859).

The first of these was concerned with the existence of differential tariffs on the semi-processed and processed derivatives of the major products exported by the less-developed countries. The background documentation on individual product groups sets out in some detail the tariffs on these products and, in most cases, on their derivatives. A simple listing of these tariffs would, therefore, seem to add little that is new to the information available to the Committee. A study which compared the height of the differential between tariffs on a basic commodity such as groundnuts and those on a processed product derived from it, such as groundnut oil, with the difference in the import prices of these two products might provide further useful information. The secretariat would be able to have a draft of a paper along these lines ready for a number of representative items in about one month.

The second study to which paragraph 8 of L/1859 refers would be concerned with "the general incidence of import duties on the major manufactured exports of developing countries in the main markets for these goods, compared with the incidence of duties on more sophisticated manufactured goods primarily traded between the highly industrialized countries". The secretariat agrees that this study would be a useful contribution, especially if it is made available to the Working Party on Procedures for Tariff Reduction early in its deliberations. While no date has yet been set for the first meeting of the Working Party, it is likely that this will take place at an early date. Where the countries to be considered in the proposed study have tariff rates expressed in ad valorem terms there would seem to be no difficulty in having a paper prepared which could be presented at this meeting of the Working Party. Where, however, specific duties are involved the prompt co-operation of the contracting parties concerned would seem to be necessary. Information on the ad valorem incidence of specific duties has in many cases been supplied in connexion with the preparation of earlier Committee III schedules of commercial policy measures. Such information as is available could be used but would need to be supplemented for the purposes of the new study.
The summary table of import duties on tropical beverages could be produced with little delay. The progress report of the Sub-Group on Trade in Tropical Products is in fact expected to contain an up-to-date summary of these duties. The production of a summary table on these products is, however, made possible by the relatively simple way in which they are dealt with in the customs tariffs of most countries. The drawing up of a summary table for other items studied by the Committee, such as was prepared in the case of quantitative restrictions, would, however, hardly be practicable.

At its meetings of 8-11 October the Committee's attention was drawn to item II:4 of its initial work programme which says that the Committee would "review the report of the GATT Working Party on Commodities, as it relates to the terms of reference of Committee III". The Working Party on Commodities' Report, dated 1 December 1961 (L/1656, BISD, Tenth Supplement, page 84) in paragraphs 41 to 43, drew the attention of Committee III to certain proposed studies. Taking into consideration the resources available to the secretariat, and the fact that, subject to the approval of the Committee, the studies just referred are to be undertaken, it is proposed that the Committee should take note of these proposals and that they should be borne in mind as the Committee implements its work programme. The last of these studies is, for instance, closely connected with the study of differential tariffs on raw materials and processed products just discussed.