In accordance with established practice the secretariat has prepared the following brief account of the current activities in other organs of GATT relevant to the work of the Committee on Trade and Development.

1. Committee on Trade in Industrial Products

   (i) Non-tariff barriers

     The Committee on Trade in Industrial Products has held a series of meetings at which it carried out an item-by-item review of the inventory of non-tariff barriers prepared on the basis of submissions by governments. This preliminary review had the aim of verifying the existence and nature of the barriers, of hearing explanations of their purpose and, wherever possible, obtaining an indication of their significance. At the Council meeting on 21 May 1969 the Director-General stated that, on the basis of this review, the Committee should be able to proceed to the next stage of establishing priorities and considering ways and means for taking concrete action. At its meeting in June, the Committee discussed inter alia ways of implementing its terms of reference with respect to developing countries and its plans for the next stage of the work on non-tariff barriers. Several suggestions were made by representatives of developing countries on work which might be done by the Committee on matters of special interest to them. Members from developed countries expressed the view that the full collaboration of the developing countries in the deliberations of the Committee was essential and that they should endeavour to supply the Committee with notifications of trade barriers affecting their exports. It was felt that the general discussion of problems of interest to developing countries should in no way be considered as closed at the June meeting; these discussions would be resumed at the next meeting of the Committee and close attention would in the future work be always given to the specific problems of interest to developing countries.

     At its meeting in October, the Committee decided to set up working groups to explore the possibilities for concrete action in regard to measures notified in the inventory and to report on the conclusions or progress by 1 May 1970. The groups were instructed inter alia to give special attention to problems of particular importance to developing countries.
(ii) Tariff studies

The Committee on Trade in Industrial Products is continuing the task given to it at the twenty-fourth session of studying and analyzing the tariff situation as it will be when all concessions resulting from the Kennedy Round negotiations have been implemented. At its first meeting in October 1968 the Committee established a Group of Technical Experts to advise on the organization of data. Basic tariff and trade information is being compiled for the tariff analysis in respect of fifteen developed countries. This work is practically completed in respect of thirteen countries and will be finalized before the end of the year for the remaining two.

At its meeting in October 1969 the Group discussed a system of classification of trade data on the basis of suggestions made by some experts (COM.IND/W/11). The Group agreed on the main features of such a system to be used in the analysis of the post-Kennedy Round tariff situation. Bearing in mind the need for presenting the data in a form suitable for an examination of the particular trade problems of developing countries, the Group agreed that it might be more useful to combine the general comparative tabulation with a more detailed one, which would group, according to the agreed classification system, all tariff items in which the developing countries have a particular export interest and occupy a significant share of the market. The secretariat was asked to prepare specific proposals to be discussed at the next meeting of the Group scheduled for December 1969.

It may be recalled that certain studies relating specifically to developing countries have been referred to the Committee on Industrial Products. At its meeting in June 1969 the Committee suggested that the secretariat might complete its earlier study of differential tariff rates affecting copper and copper products which could be of use in connexion with the general tariff study. The preliminary study is now being finalized.

At the request of the Committee on Trade and Development the Expert Group in November 1968 examined a secretariat study on the effects of specific duties and suggested how it could be further elaborated. Developing countries were invited to submit suggestions on the products in which their trade had been adversely affected by specific duties maintained by developed countries. Two developing countries have so far notified the secretariat of such products. Much of the basic data required for further study of the problem of specific duties will become available in connexion with the general tariff analysis.

2. Agriculture Committee

As mentioned in the previous note to the Committee on GATT activities in the agricultural field (COM.TD/W/86), the Agriculture Committee has entered the second stage of its work - that of identifying the principal problems in agriculture. At its meeting in March 1969 the Committee accordingly examined the structure of international markets for eight commodity sectors, i.e. dairy products, grains, bovine meat, other meats, fruit and vegetables, vegetable oils and seeds, unmanufactured tobacco, and wine; and the measures and mechanisms influencing
exports and imports in these sectors, with a view to identifying and assessing the repercussions of such measures and mechanisms upon international markets. The Committee also examined various aspects of agricultural production policies. In order to allow the second stage of the work programme to be completed certain additional data are being provided by members for consideration by the Committee.

A third meeting of the Committee was held from 13 to 14 October to examine (i) the problems of oilseeds and oils which had been referred to it by the Committee on Trade and Development; (ii) the question of the Resolution of the CONTRACTING PARTIES of 1955 on disposals of surpluses; and (iii) the question of products which have been referred to the Agriculture Committee by the Committee on Industrial Products (COM.IND/12, paragraph 1).

The Committee agreed that, at its next meeting, it would take up as the first item on its agenda the identification of problems relating to trade in oilseeds and vegetable oils and would make appropriate recommendations for action; to this end it invited individual delegations to make, as soon as possible, specific proposals as to solutions they wished to be adopted. On the subject of disposals of commodity surpluses, the Committee requested the secretariat to draw up the text of a draft resolution for consideration by the Committee at its next meeting with a view to making recommendations to the Council in December. On the third item, the Committee agreed to deal with the notifications transferred from the Industrial Committee to date or with any transferred subsequently, in the appropriate context of its work on non-tariff barriers.

3. Working Party on Border Tax Adjustments

The Working Party has held a number of meetings at which it heard general statements from delegations, conducted a preliminary examination of the GATT rules on the subject, and made a country-by-country examination of border tax adjustment practices on the basis of information submitted by governments. Developed countries have supplied information on a short list of products of interest to developing countries in Spec(63)134 and Addenda 1 to 12.

The Working Party has commenced a discussion on the possible effects of border tax adjustments on international trade. At its eighth meeting held from 30 June to 3 July, the Working Party examined the information supplied by developed countries on taxes levied on products of interest to developing countries. The Working Party will meet again in December 1969.

4. United Kingdom import deposit scheme

The Working Party set up to investigate this matter carried out a consultation with the International Monetary Fund in January. In February, the Working Party held a discussion on the measures taken by the United Kingdom and of the trade effects of these measures in the light of the findings of the IMF that "the import deposit scheme does not go beyond the extent necessary, in conjunction with other measures to achieve a reasonable strengthening of the United Kingdom's reserve position". The Working Party took note of the United Kingdom's statement that the
import deposit scheme had been introduced for the period of one year only and would, if circumstances allowed, be terminated or alleviated before the expiry of that period. At a meeting of the Council in June the United Kingdom representative recalled that the scheme had been introduced under the terms of special legislation which would expire one year after it was enacted, on 5 December 1969, and that the United Kingdom Government considered that the scheme was designed and had been operated in such a way as to reduce to a minimum any prejudice to the interests of its trading partners. The Council noted that the Working Party would, in accordance with its terms of reference, continue to be available for consultation as necessary.

At a meeting of the Council on 29 October 1969 the United Kingdom representative brought to the attention of the Committee a statement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer indicating that the import deposit scheme would be continued for a further period of one year from 5 December 1969 and that the rate of deposit would be brought down from 50 to 40 per cent. It was decided that the CONTRACTING PARTIES should consult with the International Monetary Fund on this matter, and that the Working Party should be convened when the Fund had completed its findings regarding the balance-of-payments situation of the United Kingdom.

5. Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices

The Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices established at the twenty-fifth session in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement on the Implementation of Article VI incorporating the Anti-Dumping Code, has held several meetings. It has reviewed the laws in force in the parties to the Code to ascertain whether they conform with the provisions of the Code and has examined reports submitted by parties to the Code under Article 16 of the Agreement on the Implementation of Article VI.

6. Cotton Textiles Committee

The Cotton Textiles Committee met from 8 to 10 October. It carried out the seventh annual review of the operation of the Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Cotton Textiles, and had an exchange of views on the question of adjustments in the cotton textile industry. At this meeting the Committee also initiated discussions on the future of the Arrangement as required under Article 8(d). The Committee is scheduled to meet again in December to continue the discussion on this issue.

7. Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions

During 1969 the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions has so far consulted with the Republic of Korea, Turkey and Brazil. Further consultations are scheduled during the month of November with Chile, India, Israel, Pakistan, Spain and Tunisia.