The GATT Interse ssional Committee will meet in the Palais des Nations on 26 July.

The main purpose of the meeting is to prepare for the Ninth Session of the Contracting Parties which is expected to open in October and particularly for the Review of the GATT which is to take place at that Session.

This Review was decided upon at the Eighth Session in October 1953. It is proposed to review the operation and provisions of the GATT in the light of experience gained during six years of its application, with a view to making such amendments as will equip the GATT to make the most effective contribution to its objective of freeing international trade from restrictions.

In making plans for the Review the Interse ssional Committee will take into account developments since the last session, in particular the international discussions relating to convertibility, since the revision of GATT is closely linked with the programme of collective action for the restoration of currency convertibility and the consequent liquidation of postwar controls on trade.

The Committee will also have to consider what advice to offer to the Contracting Parties concerning a renewed request by the Government of Japan to undertake tariff negotiations with a view to acceding to the GATT. This request was originally made in July 1952, but for various reasons, it has not been practicable to arrange the negotiations. However, at the Eighth Session in 1953 a number of contracting parties accepted a Declaration regulating their commercial relations with Japan on the basis of the Agreement and the Contracting Parties invited Japan to participate in their Sessions. The Japanese Government has informed the Contracting Parties that it considers there are no obstacles now to proceeding with tariff negotiations, with a view to accession, and has requested the Contracting Parties to make the necessary arrangements as soon as possible.

The members of the Intersessional Committee are: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cuba, France, Federal Republic of Germany, India, Italy, Pakistan, Sweden, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom and United States. The Chairman is L. Dana Wilgress, Canada.