GATT COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES DECIDES TO ARRANGE FOR
A MEETING OF COUNTRIES SUBSTANTIALLY INTERESTED IN
TRADE IN COTTON TEXTILE PRODUCTS

1. At the request of the United States Government the GATT Council of Representatives met at Geneva on Friday, 16 June 1961. The United States asked the Council "to convene a meeting, to take place in the latter part of July, of high-level officials of countries substantially interested in the importation and exportation of cotton textile products, with a view to reaching agreement on arrangements for the orderly development of the trade in such products, so as progressively to increase the export possibilities of less-developed countries and territories and of Japan, while at the same time avoiding disruptive conditions in import markets".

2. After having considered the request by the United States Government, the Council came to the conclusion that this question required urgent action by the governments concerned on a multilateral basis. Noting that the CONTRACTING PARTIES had already examined various aspects of the problem of trade in textile products in Committee III and in the Committee on Market Disruption, the Council agreed that, in view of recent developments, the work entrusted to the GATT should be expedited. The most appropriate procedure appeared to be the convening of a meeting of representatives of substantially interested countries; this meeting would take place at the earliest possible moment, taking into account the need for adequate preparation. Accordingly, the Council instructed the Executive Secretary to convene such a meeting, in Geneva, indicating the countries and interested intergovernmental organizations invited to participate.