The GATT Council of Representatives met in Geneva from 24 to 31 May 1962. Much of the work undertaken was in preparation for the twentieth session of the Contracting Parties which, it was decided, will be held at Geneva from 24 October to 16 November 1962.

During the course of the meeting the representative of the Government of the United Arab Republic made a request for accession to the General Agreement pursuant to Article XXXIII (see press release GATT/697). The request, which was warmly welcomed by representatives of many contracting parties, will be examined by a working party which will meet on 15 October.

Shortly before the meeting the European Economic Community furnished information on the establishment of the Community's Common Agricultural Policy. The discussion of this item during the meeting of the Council showed that representatives recognized that the most immediate question was how the Common Agricultural Policy may affect trade in agricultural products. It was decided that Committee II of the trade expansion programme (which is concerned with such trade) should carry out a consultation with the European Economic Community in order to examine the changes in the agricultural policy of the member States of the Community. Committee II will undertake this work in October.

The Council, at the request of Japan, reviewed the application of Article XXXV to that country by a number of contracting parties. The representative of Japan informed the Council that there had been encouraging developments and that since the ministerial meeting, in November 1961, four countries namely Cuba, Ghana, New Zealand and Tunisia had disinvoked their application of this Article towards Japan.

Subsequent to the views expressed in the ministerial conclusions in November 1961 that consideration should be given to the adoption of new techniques for tariff reductions, the Contracting Parties appointed a Working Party on Procedures for Tariff Reduction. The Council decided that this Working Party will hold its first meeting from 24 September to 5 October. The Council also decided that the working party which is to examine the Treaty of Association between the European Economic Community and Greece will meet from 10 to 14 September.

During the course of the meeting of the Council the first annual review of trading relations between Poland and contracting parties, as required under the terms of the Declaration of 9 November 1959, was conducted by a working Party. This is described in press release GATT/693.
Spain has been taking part in the "Dillon" round of tariff negotiations with a view to accession to the GATT under Article XXXIII, and at the same time, by a Decision of 4 June 1960, Spain has participated in the work of the Contracting Parties. This Decision will expire at the end of June 1962. The Government of Spain therefore requested, and the Council subsequently decided, to recommend an extension of the period of Spain's participation until accession takes place or until the end of the twentieth session of the Contracting Parties, whichever is the earlier. This has now been adopted.