The GATT secretariat has published two volumes, which contain reports of Committees II and III of the GATT Programme for the Expansion of Trade. These reports formed an important part of the basic documentation which was made available for the meeting of Ministers at Geneva in November 1961.

Trade in agricultural products

The first volume contains the Second and Third Reports of Committee II. The Reports comprise the Committee's examination of, and general findings and conclusions on, the use and effects of agricultural protectionist measures on international trade in agricultural products, and findings of the Committee on individual groups of commodities such as: dairy products, meat, cereals, fish, sugar, vegetable oils and oilseeds.

The volume also contains a brief statement of recent developments in the GATT - the proposals made at the ministerial meeting in November 1961 and action taken subsequently by the Contracting Parties.

Another volume, which will be published in August, will contain the detailed country-by-country reports on the consultations held by Committee II with thirty-eight contracting parties to GATT. Each report includes a chapter on the agricultural policies followed by the country consulted and a chapter on its main commodities.

Trade of less-developed countries

This volume contains the Special Report of Committee III. It sets out the findings of the Committee resulting from a product-by-product examination of such obstacles as quantitative import restrictions, tariffs, revenue duties and internal fiscal charges, State monopolies, etc., which impede the expansion of export earnings of less-developed countries.

The products which were examined by the Committee with a view to identifying the major obstacles to an expansion of exports of less-developed countries and which are the subject of comment in the Report, were as follows:

1. foodstuffs and tropical agricultural products: cocoa; coffee; tea; oilseeds and vegetable oils; cotton; tobacco; and canned fish;
2. industrial raw materials and semi-manufactures:
   iron ores; copper; copper rollings; lead; ferro-chrome and
   ferro-manganese; bauxite; alumina and aluminium; and timber;

3. manufactured goods:
   (a) cotton manufactures; jute manufactures; coir manufactures;
       finished leather, leather footwear and leather goods, and sports
       goods; and

   (b) bicycles; sewing machines; electric fans; electric motors;
       diesel engines; and steel furniture.

The volume also sets out recent developments, including the full text
of the Declaration on the Promotion of the Trade of Less-Developed Countries
which was adopted by the Ministers in November 1961, and the action taken
subsequently by the Contracting Parties and by Committee III to implement
the ministerial Conclusions.

The volume also contains a Study of the Third Five-Year Plan of India which
was undertaken by Committee III in 1961. One of the elements of the basic
work programme of Committee III calls for a study of the "possibility of
channelling of expansion of existing industries, or starting new industries,
by less-developed countries into directions where such countries will be
economically efficient producers". The study of the Indian Plan is the first
which the Committee has undertaken in this area of its work.