1. The GATT Council of Representatives has met since 19 February 1963, at Geneva. The main purpose of this meeting was to carry out the instructions of the Contracting Parties at their twentieth session that the Council should make arrangements for a meeting of GATT Ministers in 1963, and set a date for that meeting. The Council decided that the meeting of Ministers should be held at Geneva from 16 to 21 May 1963.

2. The Council considered that, in the light of recent events, there was urgent need for the Trade Ministers to deal in a concrete and specific way with the issues which had been defined by the Contracting Parties at their last session.

   The Council therefore recommended that the ministerial meeting should give directions for the effective liberalization and expansion of trade in both primary and secondary products and should consider, inter alia:

   (a) arrangements for the reduction or elimination of tariffs and other barriers to trade;

   (b) measures for access to markets for agricultural and other primary products;

   (c) measures for the expansion of the trade of developing countries as a means of furthering their economic development.

3. In order to make preparations for the ministerial meeting the Council set in motion several groups whose work will provide the material on which the Ministers can base their decisions.

   The Working Party on Procedures for Tariff Reduction, which is examining the possibility of employing new tariff-cutting techniques, will resume its work in the near future.

   In order to enable the Ministers to examine specific proposals for promoting the trade of the less-developed countries there will be meetings in March of Committee III of the trade expansion programme, which is primarily concerned with expanding the export earnings of the less-developed countries, and of the Special Group on Trade in Tropical Products.

4. At its next meeting, from 22 to 26 April, the Council will finalize the agenda and the preparation for the meeting of Ministers.