INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS STATEMENT TO GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATING IN 1964 TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

On 9 July a delegation from the International Chamber of Commerce was received in Geneva by the Executive Secretary of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The purpose of this meeting was to enable the delegation of the ICC to present officially a Statement on the Expansion of International Trade to representatives of governments which are actively participating in the preparations for the 1964 Kennedy Round of trade negotiations.

The Statement in question - adopted by the Executive Committee of the ICC on 2 July - sets out, under twenty-two points, the views of the International Chamber of Commerce concerning the 1964 trade negotiations; the ICC expresses not only its fundamental support, in principle, on the part of the international business community, it also makes an important technical contribution to the preparatory work in progress by making specific suggestions for solving some of the main issues confronting governments. As the representative of the international business community, the ICC declares itself ready to support the efforts of the governments with a view to accelerating the volume of international trade, to enlarging its basis and structure, to removing obstacles to the expansion of trade. On the basis of the twenty-two point trade expansion programme the ICC invites its National Committees and, through them, the trading interests of the whole world, to co-operate with their governments in the preparation of the 1964 trade negotiating conference which is to be held under GATT auspices. At the same time, the contracting parties to GATT are called upon to show the will to go as far as possible in the direction of co-operation and conciliation, so as to obtain maximum positive results.

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In summary, the International Chamber of Commerce not only endorses, at the level of the highest representative body in the business community, the decisions of the Ministers to stage a far-reaching trade negotiating conference; there is a positive statement of intention to carry the matter a stage further, wherever possible, by offering practical assistance.

Following the presentation of the ICC's Statement, there was a useful exchange of views between the delegation of the ICC and the representatives of negotiating governments and it was felt that continuing contacts would be both beneficial and fruitful.

The delegation of the International Chamber of Commerce which was led by Mr. Walter Hill, Secretary General of the ICC, was composed as follows:

- Mr. Wilfred G. HARROLD (United Kingdom), Head of Export Executive Department, Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd. - London;
- Mr. Jean MIKOLAJCZAK (Belgium), Directeur Général Adjoint, Société Générale des Minerais - Bruxelles;
- Mr. Stuart SCOTT (United States), Dewey, Bellantine, Bushby, Palmer and Wood (Lawyers) - New York;
- Mr. Richard PARTON, Technical Director of the ICC;
- Mr. Jean ROYER (France), Former Deputy Executive Secretary of GATT, the ICC's technical adviser on problems of trade policy, accompanied the delegation.

Representatives of a number of governments took part in this meeting.