FIRST MEETING OF ACTION COMMITTEE

Pursuant to the Resolution adopted on 21 May 1963 at the meeting of Ministers convened under the auspices of GATT, the Action Committee is at present meeting for the first time.

In accordance with the procedure decided upon by the Council on 4 July 1963, the Committee has been set up with the following membership:

Belgium          India          Peru
Brazil           Indonesia      Spain
Canada           Israel         Sweden
Ceylon           Italy          Tunisia
Chile            Japan          United Arab Republic
Czechoslovakia   Luxemburg      United Kingdom
Denmark          Netherlands    United States
Finland          New Zealand    Upper Volta
France           Nigeria        Uruguay
Germany, Fed. Rep. of Ghana        Norway
                              Pakistan

The Commission of the European Economic Community is also participating in the work of the Committee.

The representatives of twelve other GATT Member countries and the representative of the OECD are following the discussion as observers.

H.E. Mr. K.B. Lall, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of India to Belgium, has been elected as Chairman of the Committee.
The Committee's terms of reference are the following:

1. to assist the CONTRACTING PARTIES in the implementation of the Programme of Action; and

2. as appropriate to initiate, process and co-ordinate further positive measures mentioned in the Conclusions adopted by Ministers in May 1963 to help developing economies to strengthen their production potential and export capacity in order that the expansion of international trade may contribute to their economic development.

One of the principal tasks which the Committee will undertake during this first meeting will be the consideration of measures already taken or to be taken by the contracting parties, and in particular the industrialized countries, for the implementation of the ministerial conclusions regarding the Action Programme¹. Consideration will also be given to measures, other than the elimination of barriers to trade, designed to bring about a marked and rapid increase in the export earnings of the developing countries.