Dr. Patrick Donovan, Australia, elected Chairman of Committee III of GATT 'Trade Expansion Programme'

At their meeting on 25 February 1964 the Contracting Parties to GATT unanimously elected Dr. Patrick Donovan, Australian Government Trade Commissioner in Rome, as Chairman of Committee III of the Trade Expansion Programme. Committee III is an essential element in the continuing work of GATT in tackling the trade problems of less-developed countries and the responsibilities of the Chairman are considerable.

After electing Mr. Donovan the Contracting Parties paid high tribute to the work of his predecessor in this position, Mr. Paul Phillips, Australia, who is returning to his capital to take up important new duties which will continue to bear on the work of the Contracting Parties.

During the approximate two and a half years of his chairmanship, the work of Committee III has been continuously increasing in scope and in importance. Among the more important results of the Committee's work during that time is the elaboration of the principles which were taken up in the ministerial Declaration on the "Promotion of the Trade of Less-Developed Countries"; the drawing up of the GATT Eight Point Programme of Action, generally adopted by Ministers at their meeting in 1953; the adoption of the GATT Programme of Studies of Development Plans and Trade and Aid Relationships; the further extension of the range of products, to a total accounting for approximately three fourths of all exports from less-developed countries (except petroleum), under examination in the Committee; and the preparation of the ground for the establishment of an International Trade Information and Trade Promotion Advisory Service within the framework of GATT.