KENNEDY ROUND OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

GROUPS ON SPECIFIED NON-TARIFF BARRIERS

The Kennedy Round of trade negotiations is to cover not only tariffs but also non-tariff barriers. The Trade Negotiations Committee, which has overall responsibility for the preparation and conduct of the negotiations, confirmed this when it met at ministerial level in May 1964 to open the negotiations.

The Sub-Committee on Non-Tariff Barriers has drawn up a list of particular non-tariff barriers on which participating governments have indicated that they wish to negotiate. The Sub-Committee met on 15 June to establish on which of these barriers it was at this stage opportune to establish groups in which consultations could begin.

The Sub-Committee set up the following groups, each composed of the participating governments principally concerned, which are expected to start work in the first half of July on the basis of proposals submitted by participating governments:

(i) Group on certain Customs Valuation Methods, including the use of arbitrary or excessive values in levying customs duties;

(ii) Group on Government Procurement Policies, including the practice of giving preference to domestically produced goods;

(iii) Group on Administrative and Technical Regulations which hinder trade;

(iv) Group on the United States System of Assessment on Imported Bottled Spirits.

MORE
The Sub-Committee agreed in principle to establish the following groups which are to meet when negotiating propositions are received from interested participating governments:

(1) **Group on Anti-Dumping Policies**

(11) **Group on State Trading**

Subject to the same qualification, the Sub-Committee decided in principle to recommend to the Trade Negotiations Committee that it establish a special group to deal with problems concerning trade in coal. Further groups on individual non-tariff barriers may be set up during the course of the negotiations.

When the trade negotiations were officially opened at a meeting of Ministers on 4 May this year, the Ministers welcomed the interest which Poland had expressed in participating actively in the negotiations and there was general agreement that it should be feasible to work out a practical arrangement. The Sub-Committee has now set up a Special Group on the Participation of Poland. This Group is to hold its first meeting on 29 June.