At its meeting on 2 July the Trade Negotiations Committee, which has charge of the Kennedy Round negotiations, had under consideration reports from three of its sub-committees which have met recently; namely the Sub-Committees on the Tariff Negotiating Plan, Non-Tariff Barriers, and the Participation of the Less-Developed Countries. Disappointment was expressed at the absence of a report from the committee dealing with agriculture and on the lack of progress in this area of the negotiations.

1. The Trade Negotiations Committee adopted a series of recommendations concerning the tariff negotiating plan and concerning the implementation of the tariff negotiations. Some of these recommendations concern procedures to be followed in regard to the exceptions lists. (It will be recalled that one of the agreed negotiating rules is that exceptions to the general rule of linear tariff reduction are to be kept to a bare minimum necessitated by reasons of overriding national interest and that these exceptions should be subject to confrontation and justification for each product on the exceptions list.)

2. It has been agreed that the trade negotiations should cover non-tariff as well as tariff barriers and in June 1964 the Sub-Committee on Non-Tariff Barriers set up several groups to examine particular non-tariff barriers on which participating governments have indicated that they wish to negotiate. At the meeting of the Trade Negotiating Committee on 2 July it was decided that, for practical reasons, there should be a limited number of groups, each to deal with problems of the same generic character. Several of these groups – including a group on certain problems which arise on national regulations for
assessing duties, and a group on Government procurement policies - are expected to hold their first meetings in mid-July.

3. One of the principles on which the Kennedy Round is based is that every effort shall be made to reduce barriers to exports of the less-developed countries. It has been agreed that the need to reduce such barriers shall be taken into consideration by the developed countries when they are preparing their exceptions lists. It was agreed, among other things, at the meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee on 2 July that less-developed countries should prepare lists of items which they wished to have taken into account by the developed countries in preparing their exceptions lists and that the lists should be sent in good time, well before 15 November 1964 when the exceptions lists are due to be tabled.

The Trade Negotiations Committee will hold its next meeting on 13 July.