REVIEW OF THE KENNEDY ROUND NEGOTIATIONS.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. ERIC WYNDHAM WHITE, ON 13 JULY 1965

In convening this meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee, I had in mind that it was important, before we disperse for the summer holiday, to take stock of the present position in the negotiations with particular reference to the programme for their resumption in the early autumn.

(a) Tariff Negotiations

When I last made a progress report to the Committee I described what had happened at the meeting in January and February of the group which was set up to conduct on a multilateral basis the justification of the exceptions lists of the linear countries. I also explained that this multilateral discussion was being followed by a period during which individual delegations were by direct contact with one another following up particular points in more detail.

This process of direct contact between delegations is still continuing. Much of the work involved is highly technical and time-consuming, but it is an essential preliminary to the final negotiations.

It has become clear, however, that in some important industrial sectors the problems involved are unlikely to be resolved solely by bilateral negotiation and that, if the maximum offer of tariff reductions is to be secured, a more multilateral technique of negotiation needs to be evolved. Arrangements to this end are, I understand, already in train between delegations, and the multilateral negotiations will be held in the autumn, starting after the summer recess in September.
(b) Agriculture

Cereals - Important and hopeful progress has been made in the discussions which have taken place in the Cereals Group. In the beginning of May the participating governments, members of the Group, tabled their specific proposals according to the agreed procedure. A substantive discussion on the proposals was held in the first half of June at the end of which the Group agreed to carry out a number of technical studies. Considerable progress on these studies has been made already and the Group is continuing its meetings this week.

Other Products - At its last meeting the Trade Negotiations Committee agreed that discussions in respect of meat, dairy products and all other agricultural products except cereals should be held with a view, inter alia both to seeking to identify the relevant elements of support or protection which could enter into the negotiation and to exploring the views of participating countries regarding the type and content of offers required to achieve the objectives pursued by the Committee on Agriculture.

These discussions were held by the Committee on Agriculture and the Groups on Meat and Dairy Products between 10 May and 2 July 1965. The discussions in principle related to products included in the first twenty-four chapters of the Brussels Nomenclature, but certain other products which one or more participating countries felt should be dealt with in the negotiations on agricultural products, were also examined. For practical reasons, a number of tropical products were included in the examination in conjunction with non-tropical products of a similar nature.

The discussions have enabled participating countries to identify the relevant elements of support or protection which could enter the negotiations as well as to obtain explanations on the content and scope of offers. Countries also availed themselves of the possibility of making known their requests with regard to offers to be made by other participants.

The present programme provides for the tabling of offers on all these products on 16 September. As from that date, therefore, substantive negotiations on all agricultural products can be activated, and they will be an important part of the autumn programme.

(c) Tropical Products

As the Committee will be dealing with tropical products on a separate item on the Agenda, I will content myself at this stage with saying that there appears to be no reason why offers on tropical products should not be tabled on 16 September and negotiations on them fully activated as from that date. (The Committee agreed later in the meeting that the negotiations on tropical products should be started after the summer recess.)
(d) **Non-tariff barriers**

Following the submission of a paper by the United Kingdom delegation, a new group has been established on the question of anti-dumping policies and this group will be convening its first meeting on 19 July. This apart, there has been no further development since the last meeting of the Committee in this field, the general feeling remaining that further work on non-tariff barriers is best left until more progress has been made on other aspects of the negotiations.

(e) **Participation of the less-developed countries**

At its last meeting the Committee adopted a plan for the participation of the less-developed countries. A large number of less-developed countries have notified their wish to take part in the negotiations under this plan, and these countries are at present taking part in the examination of the items of interest to them which are included in the exceptions lists of the developed countries. I hope that this examination, by clarifying the benefits likely to accrue in the industrial sector to less-developed countries, will assist them in formulating the statements of the offers which they are prepared to make as a contribution to the objectives of the negotiations.

(f) **Participation of Poland**

In accordance with the procedure for the participation of Poland in the negotiations earlier agreed upon by the Committee, the Government of Poland submitted in April the offers which will be the basis for her participation. Bilateral contacts have since been taken by the Polish delegation and the delegations of some other participating countries. Multilateral negotiations will be resumed in September.

(g) **General**

That concludes this brief review of where we stand, and of the programme for the resumption of negotiations in the early autumn. I hope it will be clear from what I have said that, while no spectacular progress has been achieved since the Committee last met, the negotiations are continuing in the pattern, and in accordance with the time-table, which we then formulated and that, when we resume in September, negotiations can be fully engaged on all sectors and with the full participation of all the countries who have indicated their intention to participate. A determined effort will be called for in the final stage of the negotiations shall, as we all hope, be reached early in 1966.

END