SUBJECT: ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NINETEENTH SESSION

1. As recorded in the minutes of the recent meeting of the Council (C/M/8), it will be necessary, in view of the fact that the nineteenth session will be interrupted in the third week for the meeting of ministers, to take up virtually all items on the agenda in the first fortnight, and delegations should therefore be prepared to initiate discussion on all items in the first week. In this connexion it is evident, from an examination of the provisional agenda (L/1580), that careful programming of the meetings of certain committees and working parties will be required in order that their work may be completed in the fortnight before the ministers' meeting.

2. To this end, it is essential that the balance-of-payments committee, which begins a series of meetings on 30 October, should conclude its consultations, including the completion of its reports, before the opening of the session.

3. It is equally essential that committee II should conclude its consultations on agricultural policies during the first week of the session. Accordingly, I am convening the first meeting of this committee for 10 a.m. on Monday 13 November. It has been agreed with the countries concerned that the committee will consult first with Nigeria and a programme for the consultations is being issued. It will be necessary on some days for committee II to meet at the same time as the contracting parties in plenary session.

4. Further, the commodities working party should also begin its work promptly so that it may complete its report by the beginning of the second week of the session. Accordingly, its first meeting should be held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 14 November.

5. The group conducting the consultation with Switzerland, under the declaration of provisional accession, will also have to meet during the first week of the session.

6. In addition, the contracting parties will no doubt wish to establish working parties to deal with certain items on the agenda. These items should be taken up in plenary meeting in the first days of the session, so that the working parties may plan their work with a view to submitting their reports before the opening of the ministerial meeting. These include particularly:

   (1) A working party to conduct the second review on relations with Yugoslavia (this review should be carried out during the second week of the session);

   (ii) A working party on agricultural waivers to examine the reports by Belgium and the United States;

   (iii) A working party on German import restrictions to examine the report to be submitted by the government of the Federal Republic of Germany under the decision of 30 May 1959.

   E. Wyndham White