SUBJECT: PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF COMMITTEE III

The attention of Contracting Parties is invited to the last report of Committee III (L/1732) which sets out its future programme of work, and which has been taken note of by the Council. In accordance with this programme the Committee, at its next meeting (beginning on 1 May), will consider specific programmes of action for the reduction of trade barriers to the exports of less-developed countries. In preparation for the Committee's work, Contracting Parties have been asked to submit proposals and to supply certain information, notably the following:

Customs Tariff: (i) Contracting Parties are invited to submit specific proposals in relation to the two tasks envisaged in paragraph 9 of the report; (ii) all Contracting Parties maintaining the type of tariff barriers identified by the Committee are requested to indicate the consideration given by them to action to reduce such barriers (see paragraph 11 of the report).

Quantitative Restrictions: Contracting Parties which apply restrictions affecting the products included in the three lists considered by the Committee are requested to indicate their intention regarding the removal of such restrictions (see paragraph 13 of the report).

State Trading: The Committee will consider the adoption of a supplementary questionnaire designed to elicit information on the operation of state monopolies and their effects on the expansion of trade of less-developed countries and on the implementation of their development plans. Contracting Parties have been asked to submit proposals on, and questions for inclusion in, the questionnaire (see paragraph 17 of the report).

The requested data and any proposals of the kind referred to above should be sent to the Secretariat as soon as possible and not later than 20 April, so that they could be processed in time for use by the Committee when it meets on 1 May.

Finally, attention is drawn to document COM.III/66 regarding the commodity schedules. Contracting Parties which have not yet informed the Secretariat of amendments necessary to bring these schedules up-to-date are requested to do so as soon as possible.

E. Wyndham White.