First Report of the Tariff Negotiations Working Party

The Tariff Negotiations Working Party held its first and second meetings on 29 and 30 September:

1. Election of Chairman: Dr. H. van Blankenstein of the Netherlands Delegation was elected Chairman of the Working Party.

2. Opening of Negotiations: The Working Party proceeded to arrange for the opening of negotiations by sending of delegations which were known to be ready to commence negotiations. The Chairman of the Working Party and other delegates represented in the meeting reported on the position of their delegations. The programme or meeting which appears in the Annex to this report was prepared.

It was reported to the Working Party that not all delegations had replied to the Secretary's inquiry concerning the opening of negotiations. In order that the opening of meetings may proceed, those delegations which have not replied are asked to do so not later than 3rd October. By the 3rd of October, a delegation is asked to arrive at the Secretary's list of those delegations which intends to enter into negotiations at Torquay and as a result negotiations will then enter consideration, indicating, where no date has yet been fixed, the date when it expects to be ready for the exchange of offers. In cases where preliminary contacts are required in order to determine whether a basis exists in trade for the negotiation of concessions, these contacts should be established forthwith so that the matters raised can be reported to the Secretary not later than 3rd October. Delegations which decide to enter into negotiations shall immediately arrange the date for their first meeting.

3. Negotiations Under Article XVIII: The Working Party took note of the fact that the opening of negotiations may in some cases be delayed through the failure of some contracting parties to give notifications of their desire to withdraw or hold a meeting excluded for in their existing schedule. Therefore, the Working Party recommends that the Tariff Negotiations Committee request each delegation to inform the Secretary not later than 6th October whether or not it intends to enter into negotiations under Article XVIII. The Working Party will give further consideration to the procedure for notifications under Article XVIII and will submit a report to the Committee on this subject.

4. Procedures for the Opening of Negotiations: The Working Party discussed the appropriate procedure for the opening of bilateral negotiations in the light of the experience at Geneva and London. A set of instructions to delegations was approved and has been issued as document GATT/WTN.2/W/3. The Working Party wishes to draw attention particularly to paragraph 6 of that document and to stress the importance of the requirements relating to the preservation of GATT.
ANNEX

PROGRAMME OF NEGOTIATIONS

2 October - Austria - Finland
             Benelux - Peru
             Ceylon - Sweden
             Turkey - U. States

3 October - Austria - Sweden
             Benelux - U. States
             Finland - Norway
             Italy - Turkey
             Peru - U. States

4 October - Italy - Peru
             Italy - S. Rhodesia

5 October - Austria - Italy
             Norway - Peru
             Peru - Sweden
             Sweden - U. of South Africa

6 October - Canada - U. States
             Finland - U. of South Africa
             Peru - U. Kingdom
             S. Rhodesia - Sweden

7 October - Canada - Peru
             Norway - S. Rhodesia

9 October - Austria - U. of South Africa
             Canada - Sweden
             Germany - Turkey
             Italy - Philippines
             Turkey - U. Kingdom

10 October - Austria - U. States
             Benelux - France
             Finland - France
             Sweden - U. States

11 October - Austria - Benelux
             Austria - Canada
             Indonesia - Norway

12 October - Austria - Dominican Rep.
             Finland - Germany

14 October - Austria - France
             Dominican Rep. - Sweden

16 October - Australia - India
             Austria - Norway
             Canada - India
             France - Turkey
             Germany - U. States

17 October - Austria - Indonesia
             Canada - Dominican Rep.
             Norway - U. States
18 October  - Dominican Rep. - France
              - India - Norway

19 October  - Australia - Austria
              - Italy - South Africa

20 October  - Canada - Germany
              - Canada - France
              - France - Peru
              - Germany - Sweden
              - New Zealand - Philippines

23 October  - Australia - Philippines
              - Austria - U. Kingdom
              - Dominican Rep. - U. States

24 October  - Benelux - Canada
              - Austria - Pakistan
              - Germany - New Zealand

25 October  - Australia - U. States
              - Austria - Germany
              - Brazil - France
              - Brazil - U. States
              - France - Germany
              - Italy - U. States
              - Norway - Philippines

26 October  - Benelux - Italy
              - Brazil - Uruguay

27 October  - Australia - Germany
              - Canada - Italy
              - New Zealand - U. States

30 October  - Brazil - Canada
              - Philippines - Sweden