The Working Party reviewed the progress of the tariff negotiations, on the basis of the tabulation contained in GATT/TN.2/32, with a view to recommending a closing date for the Torquay Conference.

The Working Party agreed to recommend that the Conference be brought to a close before Easter and that 22 March be fixed as the date of signature of the Final Act. In order that signature might take place on that date, the Working Party considered that the latest date by which bilateral negotiations shall be completed would be February 28. This interval of time would be the shortest that could be allowed for the consolidation and examination of schedules and for the preparation of the final text.

In recommending 28 February as the final date for the completion of bilateral negotiations, the Working Party suggests that it should be understood that delegations engaged in negotiations which are within sight of completion on 28 February might seek authority from the Tariff Negotiations Committee to continue for a specified number of days. Other negotiations uncompleted on 28 February would be deferred, possibly for completion at some other time.

Accordingly, the Working Party recommends that the Tariff Negotiations Committee fix 28 February as the final date for the completion of all bilateral negotiations except those which are specifically authorised by the Committee to continue in the first few days of March.