SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

(commencing on 16 May 1960)

ADVANCE AGENDA

According to the records of the secretariat, the following items are to be included in the provisional agenda for the sixteenth session. Contracting parties wishing to propose additional items are requested to submit their proposals and supporting documents by 4 April in accordance with Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure.

Contracting parties will be informed by airgram by 15 March whether or not the Member States of the European Economic Community will be submitting a report, pursuant to Article XXIV:7(a) for consideration at the sixteenth session. This arrangement has been made in order that, in the event that no report is being submitted by the Member States, any contracting party so wishing will have an opportunity to request the inclusion of an item relating to the Rome Treaty on the agenda for the session.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

PROGRAMME FOR EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

(a) Committee I

Provision has been made in the programme for 1960 (L/1109) for a meeting of Committee I from 9-13 May, but it was understood (137) that the Committee would not be convened unless contracting parties so request. At the fifteenth session it was agreed (129) that contracting parties wishing to take advantage of Poland's offer to participate in the tariff conference should consult directly with the Government of Poland and that the offer could be discussed at the sixteenth session.

1 This and subsequent numbers in parentheses relate to the page numbers of the summary records of the fifteenth session.
(b) **Committee II**

..part from the consultations being conducted prior to and during the session, the Committee will meet from 9-13 May in order to consider its second report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

(c) **Committee III**

The Committee will meet from 14-25 March and will submit a report to the session.

**B.L.I.N.C.E-O.F-P.A.Y.M.E.NTS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS**

The Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions will meet on 2 May to carry out consultations with Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Greece, India, Malaya, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Uruguay, (L/1097/Add.1). The reports on the consultations will be submitted to the session.

**ITALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS**

At the fifteenth session the representative of Italy undertook to report on the measures taken and the programme proposed for the progressive elimination of the remaining restrictions (91-94).

**GERMAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS**

At the fifteenth session the representative of Germany undertook to report on action taken under Section D of Annex II to the Decision of 30 May 1959 (L/1112, paragraph 10).

**BELGIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS**

It was agreed at the fifteenth session that the Belgian Government would re-examine its position under the Decision of 3 December 1955 and would report by the end of February 1960 on the steps to be taken towards the removal of restrictions.

**SWISS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS**


Under paragraph 1(b) of the Declaration, the Swiss Government is required to furnish a report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES on the measures maintained under the reservation contained in that paragraph.

**ARTICLE XX, SUB-PARAGRAPH (j)**

It is provided in this sub-paragraph that the need for its retention will be reviewed not later than 30 June 1960, (See also Decision of 11 October 1956.)
ARTICLE XVIII

(a) Notifications by Ceylon

At the fifteenth session it was agreed to leave it open to the Government of Ceylon to submit additional information and supplementary data in support of the notifications regarding which releases were not granted at that session, (172 and Part I of L/1113).

(b) Review under paragraph 6

At the fifteenth session the CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed to defer the completion of the review for 1959 pending further information that may be submitted by the Government of Ceylon, (L/1113, Part II).

(c) Notification by Cuba

At the fifteenth session the CONTRACTING PARTIES deferred consideration of this notification (172 and Part III of L/1113).

APPLICATION OF ARTICLE XXXV TO JAPAN

At the fifteenth session it was agreed that this item would be included in the agenda for the sixteenth session (128).

AVOIDANCE OF MARKET DISRUPTION

The CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed to take up this question at the sixteenth session (153-6). A factual report will be submitted by the Executive Secretary after consultation with governments. (A request for contracting parties to supply information by 15 March 1960 was issued in GATT/IR/173.)

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

The text of the Stockholm Convention was sent to contracting parties on 5 January (L/1132).

RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES

It was agreed at the fifteenth session that the report of the Group of Experts (L/1015) would be considered at the sixteenth session (152).

SUBSIDIES

(a) Report by Panel

The Panel will meet from 22-26 February and will submit a report to the session. Recommendations by the Panel, including any recommendation concerning the review of the operation of the provisions of Article XVI (as required by paragraph 5 of that article), will require consideration.
(b) Consideration of Action under Article XVI:4

A procès-verbal extending the Declaration on the Standstill Provisions has been opened for signature. It was agreed at the fifteenth session (160) that the question of future action in relation to the carrying out of the provisions of paragraph 4 should be considered at the sixteenth session.

STATE-TRADING ENTERPRISES

The Panel on Subsidies and State Trading, at its meeting commencing 22 February, will examine the notifications received from contracting parties in response to the new questionnaire (SR.14/2 - p.20). The Panel may wish to submit a report to the session.

ANTI-DUMPING AND COUNCERVING DUTIES

The report of the Panel, which met on 18-22 January, has been distributed in L/1141.

FACILITIES FOR TEMPORARY ADMISSION OF PROFESSIONAL EQUIPMENT AND PACKING MATERIALS

The report of the Group of Experts, which met on 11-15 January, has been distributed in L/1139.

ORGANIZATION OF FUTURE WORK

At the fifteenth session (178) it was agreed that the Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen, together with the outgoing officers and the Executive Secretary, should examine the working methods and organizational structure of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. This group will make suggestions and proposals for consideration at the session.

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS BETWEEN THE SIXTEENTH AND SEVENTEENTH SESSIONS

The meetings agreed upon at the fifteenth session for the period from June to October 1960 are listed in document L/1109.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEVENTEENTH SESSION

The CONTRACTING PARTIES may wish to discuss arrangements for the seventeenth session, beginning on 31 October 1960, including the question of the attendance of Ministers.