Note by the Executive Secretary

1. As in the five preceding years, the GATT secretariat has organized in 1960 two training courses for officials holding United Nations Technical Assistance Operations fellowships. These fellows were officials from countries in process of economic development. This year again, the courses were open, not only to officials of governments parties to the GATT, but also to officials of other governments members of the United Nations.

2. The ninth training course started in March 1960 and the group of fellows from the UNTAO which attended the full course consisted of the following officials:

Mr. Samuel E. Bassey, Assistant Commercial Officer, Ministry of Trade, Ghana.

Mr. Eusebius G.O. Beecroft, Commercial Officer, Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Nigeria.

Shri Rajaram S. Deshpande, Research Officer, Office of the Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India.

Mr. Tjeng S. Hoo, Custom Inspector, Head of the Custom Appraising Office, Ministry of Finance, Indonesia.

Mr. Martin Intner, Head of the Economic Research Section, Directorate of Customs and Excise, Ministry of Finance, Israel.

Mr. Heikki S. Kalha, Attaché, Commercial Division, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland.

Mr. Idris Kriamurti, Commercial Officer, Bureau for Foreign Trade Relations, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia.
3. Apart from these officials, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of Israel asked the Executive Secretary whether they could send, without any financial commitment for the GATT or the United Nations, one of their officials to take part in the ninth course. The Executive Secretary agreed to this and the following officials attended the course:

- Mr. Gideon Lahav, Member of the Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel.

4. The tenth group of fellows arrived at Geneva at the beginning of September. It consists of the four following officials:

- Mr. Sotirios Couvelas, Principal Customs Officer, Athens Airport, Greece.
- Mr. Raymond Alben Griffith, Assistant Secretary, Federal Ministry of Trade and Industry, Government of the West Indies, Trinidad.
- Mr. José Melero, Director for International Economic Organizations and Conferences, Ministry of Commerce, Argentina.
- Mr. Mustapha Mohsni, Inspector of External Services, Secretariat of State for Finance and Commerce, Division of External Finance and Commerce, Tunisia.

5. In addition, the following officials holding UNTAO fellowships, who are interested in the study of Trade Promotion, will attend part of the course:

- Mr. Norimasa Furuta, Secretary of the Planning Room, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Japan.
- Mr. Chang Ha Lee, Administrator, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Korea.

Finally, the Executive Secretary has accepted, at the request of the Central Bank of the Philippines, that one trainee of that Bank, Mr. Roberto Y. Garcia, could attend part of the course as an "auditeur libre".

6. Apart from the regular courses which have a duration of six months, the Executive Secretary has been requested by the United Nations to organize short programmes for officials holding UNTAO fellowships or attending in-service training courses at the United Nations. The Executive Secretary accepted this arrangement whenever this extra burden did not conflict with
the normal working of the secretariat. Under this arrangement one Japanese official spent a short time in the GATT secretariat in July 1960 and in February last a group of nine young African economists attended lectures in the secretariat. They came from Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Libya, Somalia, United Arab Republic/Egypt and Somalia Protectorate.

The success of the GATT training courses has led certain governments or organizations to ask the Executive Secretary to allow some of their officials or fellows to come to the GATT secretariat and obtain first-hand information on commercial policy, tariffs, etc. Apart from the officials who attended the regular courses as "auditeurs libres", one official of the Ministry of Finance of Israel holding a United States fellowship within the framework of the Third Country Training Programme, came to the GATT secretariat and spent two weeks during which he took part in discussions on tariffs and customs problems. A group of three officials from Nigeria and India who were studying economic development at the Harvard University under fellowships made available by a Ford Foundation grant, spent a short time in the GATT secretariat to discuss problems relating to commercial policy.

7. The training programme and methods continued to remain the same as in preceding years; the secretariat has tried to lay emphasis on the individual work of the fellows. In particular, they were requested to prepare under the supervision of officers of the Trade Policy and Trade Intelligence Divisions notes on specific problems of trade intelligence and commercial policy. As far as could be fitted in with their regular programme, the fellows had an opportunity of attending the meetings which were held during their training period and of taking an active part in the preparation of these meetings, in accordance with the methods which have been adopted in previous years.

8. One regular feature of the training programme is the study trip of about a fortnight which is organized with the assistance of European governments, at the end of each course. As usual, the tour is focused on a limited number of practical problems and the object of the tour is to give to the participants first-hand information on the ways in which these problems are tackled by a few experienced administrations. At the end of the second course of 1959, the participants, accompanied by an officer of the secretariat, visited France, the United Kingdom, Germany and Denmark in order to study the system of temporary admission and drawback, the methods of customs valuation and the problems of nomenclature. Apart from these technical problems, the fellows had an opportunity of discussing with officials and traders the way in which some imports and exports were organized in a few selected countries. In Paris, the fellows discussed with the officials of the cereals monopoly (CNC) the organization of the import and export trade in wheat and other cereals; they also visited the Ecole des Douanes where the customs officials of France and some other countries are trained; they also visited an important motor-car factory. In London they discussed the problems of nomenclature, valuation, temporary importation and drawback
at H.M. Customs and Excise and they visited the Metal Exchange. In Hamburg, they discussed with competent officials and traders the organization of the import trade in coffee; they also visited the free harbour in Hamburg. They paid a short visit to Berlin where they visited important industrial plants. In Copenhagen the fellows had first-hand information on the organization of the co-operative export trade in dairy and meat products; they visited a co-operative dairy and cheese factory, the Meat Research Institute as well as a model farm.

At the end of the first course of 1960 the participants in the training scheme, accompanied by a member of the secretariat, visited France, the United Kingdom, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany and Czechoslovakia. The main object of the tour was to give to the fellows an idea of the various systems of foreign trade which exist in Europe, such as private trade in grains, co-operative trade in agricultural products, State trading in free enterprise countries such as France and Germany, and State trading in a planned economy such as Czechoslovakia; they also had an opportunity of collecting first-hand information about the working of the terminal exchanges and the international commodity agreements. In Paris, they had information on the methods of trading of an important private firm (Dreyfus and Co.) dealing with wheat and other cereals and of the French wheat monopoly. In London, they visited the Sugar Board and the London Metal Exchange as well as the International Tin Council, the International Sugar Council and the International Wheat Council. In Copenhagen, the participants visited the Danish Bacon Factories' Export Association, the Federation of Danish Dairy Association as well as the Meat Research Institute and a model farm. In Frankfurt, they studied the problems of the trade in agricultural products and in Prague they discussed with the officials of the Government and of import-export corporations the planning of State-trading operations as well as the practical organization of foreign trade.

9. The Executive Secretary wishes to place on record his appreciation for the valuable assistance which the host countries have extended to the secretariat in the arrangement of these trips and to the fellows during their stay in their capitals.

10. The procedures which have been in force since the beginning of 1959 for the submission of candidatures have worked fairly smoothly and there has not been any need to resort to exceptional methods of financing. On the other hand, some difficulties have been experienced due to the fact that a number of trainees have not been able to attend the course although their government had accepted the fellowships which had been granted to them. As these cancellations often came just before the course started, it has not always been possible to bring in other candidates; this was particularly the case during the second course of 1960 when a number of fellowships have not been used. Although such cancellations cannot be avoided in all cases, the attention of the governments should be drawn to the fact that a number of officials who would have profited by the training programme have been unable to do so because of these late cancellations.