24 February 1969

The Director-General of GATT presents his compliments and has the honour to refer to the airgram (GATT/AIR/UNNUMBERED) of 19 December 1968 in which governments participating in the work of the Trade Negotiations Committee of Developing Countries were informed of the decision taken by the Committee that the present phase of exchange of information should be completed in March 1969 and lists of requests for concessions on specific products addressed to individual countries presented by 10 April.

Informal consultations carried out by the secretariat suggest that some progress has been made in the exchange of information between participating delegations since the last meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee but that this process would need to be considerably accelerated during the coming weeks if the target dates established by the Committee are to be met. In this connexion, the Director-General has been requested by several delegations to recall to the attention of the heads of delegations of countries participating in the negotiations the hope expressed by the Committee that delegations would have available to them in Geneva the expert personnel needed to ensure that the process of exchange of information can be completed by the target date and to suggest that delegations that feel the need for additional personnel would so advise their governments with immediate effect.

The attention of the heads of delegations is further invited to the arrangements established in the GATT secretariat for providing necessary technical assistance to delegations in preparing for these negotiations.