If the Contracting Parties decide at the Sixth Session to strengthen the administration of the General Agreement by establishing a permanent Secretariat and other permanent administrative machinery, it will be desirable to consider the question of relationships which might usefully be established not only with other governmental organizations but with non-governmental organizations. The present note is addressed to the second problem.

The problem involves a number of questions of some difficulty. But there is no doubt that the Contracting Parties could derive considerable benefit from the experience and technical advice of established and representative non-governmental organizations. Moreover, the collaboration with these organizations would strengthen the General Agreement by securing the support of representative organizations in the various countries participating in the Agreement.

The following suggestions are put forward as a basis for discussion by the Contracting Parties. They are based upon a study of the practice and experience of the relationships between United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations in the light of the special conditions of the work of the Contracting Parties.

1. The Contracting Parties should take full advantage of the knowledge and experience of non-governmental organizations engaged in work within the purview of the Contracting Parties. To this end arrangements should be made for enlisting appropriate non-governmental organizations as consultants to the Contracting Parties.
2. The Contracting Parties should accordingly adopt a list of "Consultant Organizations" on the recommendation of the Executive Secretary and the Standing Committee.

3. Consultant organizations should have the following facilities and responsibilities:

   (a) **Attendance at meetings of or arranged by the Contracting Parties** *(1)*

      Wherever matters or suggestions have been submitted to the Contracting Parties by a consultant organization in accordance with the arrangements set out in paragraph (c) below and are under discussion by the Contracting Parties, the representatives of the organization concerned may make a statement or statements to the Contracting Parties.

      The Contracting Parties should make arrangements for consultation during their Sessions with the appropriate consultant organizations concerned on any matter with respect to which the Contracting Parties decide that such consultations would be useful. They may also make arrangements for further consultations with the organizations concerned on any matter submitted to the Contracting Parties by the organizations, supplementary to the arrangements contained in the first part of this paragraph.

   (b) **Consultation with the Contracting Parties other than through the Sessions of the Contracting Parties**

      Where specific projects are entrusted by the Contracting Parties to the Standing Committee or the Secretariat there should be

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*(1)* This question presents special difficulties having regard to the nature of the work of the Contracting Parties and the confidential character of the Sessions. This feature of the meetings of the Contracting Parties is very important to the success of their work and should not be compromised by any arrangements that may be made with non-governmental organizations. It is therefore necessary to limit attendance at meetings to a degree that will probably prove somewhat unpalatable to the organizations concerned. On the other hand, this limitation should not be a bar to effective cooperation, and this point would, it is felt, be demonstrated by experience.
consultation with the consultant organization or organizations competent in the field of such projects. In the first instance, such consultations should be undertaken by the Executive Secretary in preparing documentation for the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee may however consult directly with the consultant organization concerned.

(c) Documents submitted by and to be furnished to consultant organizations

Consultant organizations shall receive all unrestricted documents of the Contracting Parties, upon request documents originally issued as restricted documents but subsequently derestricted in accordance with the procedures of the Contracting Parties, and such other documents as are necessary for effective consultation as provided for in paragraph (b) above. Documents submitted to the Contracting Parties by a consultant organization shall be distributed at the discretion of the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall also circulate a list of all communications received from consultant organizations and any documents so listed shall receive full distribution at the request of any contracting party.

4. The Executive Secretary shall refer to the Contracting Parties any difference of view between himself and any consultant organization regarding the interpretation or implementation of these arrangements.

5. These arrangements shall be reviewed from time to time and in such review the views of the consultant organizations shall be given full consideration.

6. The Contracting Parties should initiate these arrangements in the near future and in the first instance should accord consultative status to the International Chamber of Commerce and the Consejo Interamericano de
Comercio y Producción, who have already shown considerable interest in the
General Agreement. Applications by other organizations should be referred to
the Seventh Session of the Contracting Parties.