At the thirteenth session, in November 1958, the CONTRACTING PARTIES decided to formulate a co-ordinated programme of action directed towards the further expansion of international trade and they established three Committees to carry out the programme. Committee I was to examine the possibility of arranging a further general round of multilateral tariff negotiations within the framework of the GATT.

Committee I met in February and in May 1959, and during the fourteenth session it made recommendations on the basis of which the CONTRACTING PARTIES decided to convene a tariff conference, commencing in September 1960. The scope of this conference will cover four categories of negotiations:

(i) negotiations among contracting parties for new concessions, as proposed by the representative of the United States at the thirteenth session;

(ii) renegotiations with Member States of the European Economic Community, pursuant to GATT Article XXIV:6; i.e., negotiations for adjustments to be made in the Common Tariff to make up for changes in rates bound under the GATT;

(iii) any renegotiations of concessions in the existing schedules which governments intend to undertake before the end of the current three-year period of firm validity;

(iv) negotiations with countries invited to negotiate with a view to acceding to the GATT.

The CONTRACTING PARTIES decided that the conference shall be held in two phases. The first phase, up to the end of 1960, will be concerned with renegotiations with the European Economic Community, and with any renegotiations of existing concessions (items (ii) and (iii) above). The second phase, opening at the beginning of January 1961, will be concerned with negotiations for new concessions and negotiations with countries wishing to accede to GATT.

During its meeting which opens on 31 August and is scheduled to last for ten days Committee I will be largely concerned with technical arrangements for the forthcoming tariff negotiations in 1960-61. The Committee will report to the GATT fifteenth session.

The Chairman of Committee I is Dr. Emanuel Treu, Austria.