Sir,

I have the honour to bring to your attention the meetings arranged by the CONTRACTING PARTIES for 1960 (see document L/1109) and the principal matters which require action by governments in preparation for these meetings.

1. **Sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES**

Two sessions will be held in Geneva in 1960. The sixteenth session will begin on 16 May and the seventeenth session on 31 October. An advance agenda for the sixteenth session will be issued in February.

2. **Committees on Expansion of Trade**

(a) **Committee I**

Although provision has been made for a meeting beginning on 9 May, it was agreed at the fifteenth session (SR.15/16) that the Committee would be convened only if contracting parties so desired.

(b) **Committee II**

The Committee will continue its consultations with contracting parties at meetings beginning on 25 January and 28 March and during the sixteenth session; the contracting parties to be consulted are listed in Annex I to document L/1109. (Background papers for the consultations are being prepared by the secretariat in co-operation with the countries concerned.) Other meetings of the Committee are scheduled for 9 May and 4 September.

(c) **Committee III**

Two meetings will be held beginning on 14 March and 19 September. The work programme of the Committee is set out in paragraphs 15-17 of the second report of the Committee adopted at the fifteenth session (L/1063) and further elaborated in document COM.III/17. As agreed, and as noted in the work programme, the secretariat is preparing documentation for the Committee in collaboration with contracting parties.
3. **Consultations on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions**

   The Committee appointed to conduct the consultations in 1960 will hold meetings beginning on 2 May, 4 July and 17 October. The arrangements and procedures are set out in L/1097 and addendum 1, which includes a time schedule for the consultations. The contracting parties which are to participate in these consultations will be requested to communicate to the secretariat information on their restrictions which will be used in the preparation of documents to serve as a basis for the discussions of the Committee.

4. **1960 Tariff Conference**

   The rules and procedures for the Tariff Conference including the time-table and provisions concerning the preparations for the conference are contained in an annex to the second report of Committee I (L/1043 with Addendum 1) adopted at the fifteenth session.

5. **European Free-Trade Association**

   Copies of the Stockholm Convention have been made available to contracting parties (L/1132). Governments wishing to submit questions for transmission to the participating governments have been requested to send these to the secretariat not later than 8 February. The procedure to be followed after the replies to the questions have been received from the participating countries was agreed at the fifteenth session (SR.15/17).

6. **Subsidies**

   A meeting of the Panel on Subsidies has been fixed tentatively for 15 February. The data which have been received from governments for consideration by the Panel are reproduced in L/880, L/964 and Addenda, L/1029 and L/1131 (cf. also CM.II/2(a) on Austrian subsidies). Such data are still awaited from certain contracting parties and will be circulated as soon as received.

7. **State Trading**

   Under the Decision of 22 November 1957 contracting parties are required to submit annually data concerning State-trading enterprises. The revised questionnaire, as adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the fourteenth session, is given in the Annex to L/970. Countries which have not yet replied to the new questionnaire are urgently requested to do so since the panel on subsidies and state trading is to review the replies received at a meeting commencing on 15 February. Notifications so far received are reproduced in document L/1014 and Addenda.
8. **Avoidance of Market Disruption**

Following discussion at the fifteenth session (SR.15/17) it was agreed that this question should be included in the agenda for the sixteenth session and that, in the meantime, the secretariat was to submit a factual report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES and to consult with governments with a view to ensuring that this report was complete. A request to governments to supply whatever information is at their disposal has been made in GATT/AIR/173.

9. **Questions of Organization**

At the fifteenth session, the Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen, together with the outgoing officers and the Executive Secretary, were requested to enquire into the working methods and organizational structure of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. It was agreed during the fifteenth session that contracting parties should consider the problems raised and the suggestions put forward during the discussions (SR.15/7, pp.26-33, and SR.15/15, pp.117-8). The task of the group would be greatly facilitated if governments could submit their views on these points as early as practicable.

10. **Consular Formalities**

In accordance with the Recommendation of 30 November 1957, contracting parties applying consular formalities on importation should report before 1 September of each year on progress achieved towards compliance with the Recommendation of 1952 that such formalities should be abolished.

11. **Marks of Origin**

By the Recommendation of 21 November 1958 contracting parties were invited to report not later than 1 September of each year any changes in their legislation, rules and regulations concerning marks of origin.

12. **Acceptance of Protocols**

A statement on the protocols and other instruments drawn up by the CONTRACTING PARTIES, which have not been signed or accepted by all contracting parties, with the names of the governments which have not yet signed or accepted them, is attached hereto. At the fifteenth sessions governments were asked to take the required action as early as possible.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

E. Wyndham White,
Executive Secretary.
STATUS OF PROTOCOLS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

This statement shows the status of the protocols and other instruments, as of 15 January 1960, upon which some action is still required by one or more governments. Except where otherwise indicated the countries named are those which have not accepted the instrument in question.

(a) Protocol Amending Part I and Articles XXIX and XXX

Brazil  
Chile
Peru  
Uruguay

(b) Protocol Amending the Preamble and Parts II and III

Brazil  
Chile
Peru  
Uruguay

(c) Protocol of Organizational Amendments

Brazil  
Chile
Canada  
Cuba  
Indonesia
Peru  
Uruguay

(d) Procès-Verbal of Signature Concerning the Protocol or Organizational Amendments

Brazil  
Chile
Canada  
Cuba
Indonesia  
Uruguay
Peru

(e) Procès-Verbal of Rectification Concerning the Protocols Amending Part I and Articles XXIX and XXX, the Preamble and Parts II and III and of Organizational Amendments

Brazil  
Chile
Canada  
Cuba
Peru  
Uruguay

(f) Agreement on the Organization for Trade Cooperation

Australia  
Cuba
Belgium  
Dominican Republic
Brazil  
France
Canada  
Indonesia
Chile  
Italy
Luxemburg
Kingdom of the Netherlands
United States of America
New Zealand
Peru

(g) Protocol of Rectification to the French Text

Brazil  
Chile
Peru  
Uruguay

(h) Protocols of Rectifications and Modifications

Fifth Protocol (3 December 1955)

Brazil  
Dominican
Cuba
Republic  
Uruguay
**Sixth Protocol (11 April 1957)**

| Brazil | Dominican Republic | Ghana
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<td>Burma</td>
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| Chile  | Federal Republic of Germany | Nicaragua
| Cuba   |                    | Uruguay

**Seventh Protocol (30 November 1957)**

| Brazil | Dominican Republic | Ghana
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| Chile  | Federal Republic of Germany | Nicaragua
| Cuba   |                    | Uruguay

**Eighth Protocol (18 February 1959)**

| Burma  | France | Italy
|--------|--------|------|
| Chile  | Federal Republic of Germany | Nicaragua
| Cuba   |                    | Turkey
| Dominic | Republic | United States of America
|        |          | Uruguay

**Ninth Protocol (17 August 1959)**

This protocol has been accepted by:

| Australia | Denmark | Peru
|-----------|---------|------|
| Brazil    | Indonesia | Sweden
| Canada    | Kingdom of the Netherlands | Union of South Africa
| Ceylon    | Norway | United Kingdom
| Czechoslovakia |        |      |

Austria has signed "subject to ratification"

(i) **Protocol of Terms of Accession of Japan**

| Chile | Nicaragua | Uruguay
|-------|-----------|------|

(j) **Ninth Protocol of Supplementary Concessions**

| Finland | Federal Republic of Germany
|--------|-----------------------------|

(k) **Protocol Relating to Negotiations for the Establishment of New Schedule III**

| Australia | Cuba | Greece | Nicaragua
|-----------|------|--------|------|
| Belgium   | Dominic | Haiti | Pakistan
| Brazil    | Republic | Italy | Turkey
| Burma     | Federal Republic | Luxemburg | Uruguay
| Chile     | Ghana | New Zealand |
(i) Procès-Verbal (Brazil and Benelux) Annexed to the Brazil Protocol
(paragraph (k) above)
Belgium ³  Luxemburg ³

(m) Declaration on the Continued Application of Schedules (30 November 1957)
Brazil Peru Uruguay

(n) Declaration Extending the Standstill Provisions of Article XVI:4
Australia Cuba Ghana Pakistan
Brazil Czechoslovakia India Peru
Burma Dominican New Zealand Union of South
Chile Republic Nicaragua Africa

(o) Procès-Verbal Further Extending the Validity of the Declaration
(19 November 1959) (paragraph (n) above)
This Procès-Verbal has been signed by Austria and Finland.

(p) Declaration on the Provisional Accession of Switzerland
Australia Federal Republic of Germany Japan Switzerland
Brazil Ghana Federation of Malaya Turkey
Burma Groocoo New Zealand Union of South Africa
Chile República Federación de Nicaragua United States of America
Cuba Haiti Pakistan
Dominican Republic Italy

(q) Declaration on the Provisional Accession of Israel
Australia Chile Federal Republic of Germany Japan Luxembourg
Austria³ Cuba Federación de Malaya
Belgium Czechoslovakia Haiti Federación of
Brazil Dominica Indiia

(r) Declaration on Provisional Accession of Tunisia
This Declaration has been accepted by Finland.

(s) Application of the General Agreement to Cambodia
The following governments have not yet made notification pursuant to
paragraph 3 of the Decision of 17 November 1958:
Ceylon Japan Turkey
Cuba Nicaragua Union of South
Dominican Republic Federation of Rhodesia and
Federation of South Africa
Nyasaland
(t) Declaration on Relations between Contracting Parties and Yugoslavia

Cuba	Federal Republic of Germany	Japan	Nicaragua
Dominican Republic	Haiti	Federation of Pakistan	Union of South Africa

(u) Declaration on Relations between Contracting Parties and Poland

This Declaration has been accepted by Finland, France and Poland.

1 Requires unanimity for entry into force.
2 Signature affixed ad referendum.
3 Signature affixed "subject to ratification".
4 Signature affixed "subject to approval".
5 Part I thereof requires unanimity for entry into force.
6 Having not yet notified the entry into force of concessions.