Management and Administration of the Ministerial Meeting

1. The Committee noted Information Circular No.1 issued by the secretariat. The Chairman also referred to the letters from the Director General to delegations asking them to inform him as soon as possible of the name of their minister who would attend the Session. In this regard, and in response to a number of enquiries which had been put to him, the Chairman indicated that it was the Canadian Government's present intention that Mr. E. Lumley, the Canadian Minister of State for International Trade, would attend, and would chair the Ministerial portion of the Session, with his assistance.

Substantive Preparations for the Ministerial Meeting

2. The Committee noted the documents that had been circulated since its last meeting, including a checklist of documents relating to contributions by other GATT bodies (PREP.COM/W/12), papers by the Philippines on export credits, the European Economic Community on trade and exchange rate variability, by Chile on agriculture, by Asean in regard to their priorities for the Ministerial Meeting and by Nigeria on tropical products and the generalized system of preferences (PREP.COM/W/10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15) and an information document submitted by Australia (PREP.COM/INF/2).

3. The delegations which had presented papers introduced these and there was a short discussion on them. Some delegations indicated that they would be presenting papers on topics of interest to them, e.g. fisheries.

4. The Committee also had before it an informal working paper entitled "First Approximation to the Final Product" which had been prepared in response to a request made by the Committee. Many delegations said that, as the paper had been distributed recently, their comments on it would be of a preliminary nature. After a general debate the Committee discussed each of the three parts of the paper in turn.

5. The Committee noted the statements made. It agreed to add a topic "Export of goods the sale of which is prohibited domestically" to the catalogue. It agreed that its immediate objective should be to have ready a first draft, dealing with all three parts and embodying the largest possible measure of agreement, by mid-July.
Future Meetings

6. The Committee agreed that informal consultations on a redraft of Part 1 should be held forthwith and that a further meeting of the Committee should be held on 22 June, mainly to examine Part 1. The Committee agreed that intensive informal consultations should be held on Parts 2 and 3. The Committee noted that work on some topics dealt with in Parts 2 and 3 was going on in other GATT bodies and the need for this work to be advanced as rapidly as possible so that its results could be taken into account in the first draft to be drawn up by mid-July. The Committee also agreed to meet on 27 and 28 July to take stock of the situation. Finally, it agreed that its first meeting after the break would be held on 23 September.