Chapter VII of the draft ITO Charter, dealing with Intergovernmental Commodity Arrangements is being made public for consideration at the first meeting of the Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements on 18 August. It is the first chapter of the Geneva draft to be made available and is still subject to approval in the final plenary session of the Preparatory Committee. The general purpose of Chapter VII is to prevent intergovernmental commodity arrangements from obstructing trade, to provide safeguards by limiting the use of such arrangements to conditions in which they are justified, and to establish principles to which they must conform.

There have been no fundamental changes in the aims and principles of this section of the ITO Charter since it was discussed at the earlier meetings of the Preparatory Committee in London and New York. The main alterations in the Geneva draft are summarized in Press Release No.262, page 5.