The Executive Committee of ICITO has decided to refer to the contracting parties the proposal that a means should be found for putting into force the provisions of Chapter six of the Havana Charter dealing with inter-governmental commodity arrangements.

It was recognized that under Article XXIX of the General Agreement the leading trading nations of the world are already bound to observe the principles of the Commodity Chapter of the Charter. It was also recognized that for the time being many countries would be faced with legislative or administrative difficulties in the way of adopting the proposal.

The proposal, which was in the form of a Protocol to apply the Commodity Chapter provisionally, was introduced at an informal session of the Executive Committee of ICITO on 23 July when it was sent to a working party for detailed examination.

Replying to the request of the Chairman, High Commissioner Dana Wilgess, for a clear expression of views, Woodbury Willoughby, United States, said that the Havana Charter as a whole was now before Congress and the United States would not wish to put Chapter six into operation provisionally. Mr. Willoughby emphasized - and he was supported by other members of the Executive Committee - that there already existed adequate machinery in the United Nations, mainly the ICCICA, thus making it unnecessary to take drastic action.

It had been demonstrated, said Mr. Willoughby, that action could be taken in cases where it was needed by the conclusion of agreement for specific commodities, as for example the Wheat Agreement.

The Interim Coordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements was established by a resolution of the Economic and Social Council in March 1947. The ICCICA has its secretariat at Lake Success and its Chairman is Sir James Holmore, United Kingdom.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of ICITO it was agreed that in view of the importance of the matter and the continuing need for joint action by governments in the field of Commodity Agreements, the working party should complete its report which would be sent to the contracting parties to GATT. It is expected that the contracting parties will consider this item in relation to their GATT obligations during their current session at Annecy.