There will be two separate sets of meetings to be held at Annecy.

First, the **Third Session of the Contracting Parties to GATT**

It is expected that this Session will open on Friday, 8 April, at 3 p.m.

This opening meeting will be organizational in character, to consider general plans for the trade meetings in advance of the official opening on Monday, 11 April.

It is not expected that the Contracting Parties will meet again until about April 14. They will schedule their subsequent meetings in relation to the progress of the tariff negotiations and the various items of their agenda.

Advance details of probable agenda items to be considered by the Contracting Parties will be made available later.

Secondly, the **Tariff Negotiations.**

These will open formally on Monday morning, 11 April, with a public session attended probably by high officials of the French Government, the Department of Haute Savoie, the city of Annecy, as well as Heads of Delegations.

Subsequent meetings concerning the tariff negotiations will be mainly private, but press releases will be issued whenever possible.

**Press Arrangements**

Every effort will be made to issue press releases simultaneously in English and French in Annecy and Geneva.

A press working room and a press conference room will be available in Annecy. The press working room will be equipped with telephone booths. The French authorities - Postes et Télégraphes - have given fullest assurances that good telephone and telegraph communications with Geneva, Paris and overseas will be guaranteed.
The delegations of the 36 participating countries will be living in hotels in Annecy and its immediate surroundings.

There will be a daily bus service leaving Geneva at 8.30 a.m. and departing from Annecy at 6.00 p.m. (or later).

Arrangements for accredited correspondents to enjoy conference privileges at the French and Swiss Customs are now being discussed.

Any correspondent wishing to reserve a room at Annecy should inform Dick Ford. A small number of hotel rooms will be kept in reserve for correspondents wishing to stay overnight.

Press Coverage

The meetings of the Contracting Parties to GATT will be private, in accordance with their established practice. It is expected that, as at former meetings, daily press statements approved by the Chairman will be issued.

The actual tariff negotiations will be entirely private and no regular press statements are to be expected, except perhaps as to general progress. There may, however, be statements by individual delegations from time to time, as well as press conferences.

Duration of Meetings

It is not expected that the tariff negotiations can be completed in much less than three months.

Facts and Figures

23 countries took part in the 1947 Geneva tariff negotiations. They completed 123 bilateral sets of negotiations, covering 45,000 items, and accounting for two-thirds of the import trade of the negotiating countries and for substantially half of total world imports.

The original 23 countries will be joined at Annecy by an additional 13, making a total of 36. Each of the original 23 countries will negotiate with all or some of the 13 countries and the 13 countries will negotiate amongst themselves. A total of over 400 separate negotiations is therefore a possible maximum.

There will be about 500 delegates and assistants taking part in the Annecy meetings. They will be accommodated in 11 hotels. Three other hotels will be converted into offices and conference rooms; 150 offices will be required.

Organization

The main burden of advance planning and of running the trade meetings is carried by the Secretariat of ICITO, under Executive Secretary Eric Wyndham White.

Arrangements at Annecy are being planned and executed by a special committee, under the guidance of M. Canet, Préfet de la Haute-Savoie, M. Volland, Maire d'Annecy, and M. Decourvière, Secretary General.