Contracting parties were advised in GATT/AIR/108 that nine of the consultations to be held in 1957 under Article XII:4(b) will take place in the three-week period beginning 10 June. In the same airgram members of the Committee and other contracting parties wishing to be represented and to participate in the discussions were asked to inform the Executive Secretary of the names of their representatives by 1 June.

As 10 June is a public holiday the Committee will begin its work at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, 11 June. In view of the shortened working time in the first week of the programme, it may not be possible to complete all the three consultations (with Denmark, Norway and Sweden) before the end of the week, and some of them may have to be concluded in the following week. Every effort will be made to conclude the consultations with France, Italy and Greece in the second week, and those with Germany, the Netherlands and Austria in the third, but this timetable may have to be altered and representatives should be prepared for the meeting continuing into July.

In accordance with the procedure agreed at the Eleventh Session, the Chairman of the CONTRACTING PARTIES has appointed Mr. Lionello Cozzi, Deputy Permanent Delegate for Italy in Geneva, in charge of GATT and ECE matters, as Chairman of the Consultations Committee.

In accordance with the agreed procedure the secretariat is preparing a document in connexion with each consultation to serve as a basis for discussion which, together with the relevant documentation supplied by the International Monetary Fund, is to be circulated to all contracting parties about a month before the consultation is to be opened. The secretariat documents relating to the first three consultations referred to above, as well as an IMF paper, have been circulated to contracting parties, in most cases through their permanent representatives in Geneva or liaison officers in Europe. Similar documents relating to the other consultations will be circulated shortly.

At the opening of each consultation the leader of the delegation of the consulting government will be invited to make a statement. In view of the extensive documentation available to the Committee, the consulting delegations may find that they are relieved of the need of making lengthy opening statements and can confine themselves to supplementary observations. In order to expedite the proceedings, the consulting governments, as well as other contracting parties, are requested to submit in writing, as early as possible in advance of the opening of the relevant consultations, any general statements which they may wish to make to the Committee.