PROPOSED REVISION OF PARAGRAPHS 5 AND 6 OF THE DRAFT INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT (IC/W/29)

5. The Committee considered what general arrangements should be made for the conduct of the Review and decided to recommend the appointment, early in the Session, of a Steering Group composed of the Chairman, the two Vice-Chairmen and four representatives chosen by the Chairman having regard to their experience of international trade conferences. The Committee noted that, owing to the delay in the submission of proposals by governments, it had not been able to prepare an annotated agenda for the Review as instructed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The Committee concluded that no attempt should be made at this time to prepare an annotated agenda and that the co-ordination of the proposals submitted would be a matter to which the Steering Group could give attention. Further, the Committee considered that it would not be feasible to establish a fixed deadline for the submission of proposals in so important a matter as the Review of the Agreement, but that it was essential that contracting parties should give an indication as early as possible of the proposals they were likely to submit.

6. At the July meeting the Committee instructed the Executive Secretary to provide as from 8 November sufficient services for a plenary session and one working party meeting or for three working party meetings to be held simultaneously. Other questions arising in connection with the conduct of the Review were considered at the meeting in October. The Committee discussed the number of working parties which might have to be established to consider the proposals and amendments submitted by Governments. It appeared to the Committee that it would be desirable to establish a small number of principal working parties in order that the examination of the proposals could be co-ordinated, in order that there should not be excessive specialization in their terms of reference and in order to meet the staffing problems of the smaller delegations. The Committee considered that it would be premature to put forward any definite recommendation as to the appointment of Review working parties and decided to recommend that the question be referred to the Steering Group, whose appointment is proposed in Paragraph 5, with instructions that proposals should be submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES during the plenary discussion on the Review.

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