The Budget Working Party, when examining the question of the revision of the scale of contributions at its meeting on 18 October 1956, decided to circulate to all contracting parties a table prepared by the secretariat on the basis of an alternative scale of contributions.

The Working Party would welcome your views on the criteria suggested for the calculation of contributions in the future, which meet with the general approval of the members of the Working Party on Budget, and they would be particularly glad to have your comments on the following points:

(a) whether the scale of contribution should be based on the share of contracting parties in foreign trade;

(b) whether the scale should be based on the average of the last three available years;

(c) whether the contribution should be adjusted every three years in accordance with the changes in the shares of foreign trade; and

(d) whether the new scale, if approved this year, should be applied for the first time for the 1957 or 1958 budget.

Should your delegation be prepared to make comments on these suggestions it would be convenient if a member of your delegation could attend the meeting of the Budget Working Party at which this question will be discussed again. This meeting will probably be held on Tuesday next.

Under paragraph 4 of Article XXV of the Agreement, decisions on such matters are taken by a majority of the votes cast at the meeting of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.