1. Reports

The discussions which the Working Party has had on a number of commodities show that general arguments have been presented which have a bearing on most, if not all, of the commodities considered. It would seem appropriate therefore to deal with the general arguments on these issues in a main report, and then to confine the material in the individual commodity reports (which would be annexes to the main report) to the facts and arguments which relate solely to the particular commodity in question, referring back as necessary to the arguments in the main report.

For this purpose it may be useful, at a later stage, to have a debate on the conclusions of a general character which it may be possible to draw from the detailed examination of individual items. Such a discussion would facilitate the drafting of the final report to be presented to the Intersessional Committee in April. The preliminary draft on each commodity will, of course, be drawn up in the way already agreed, and circulated to members for their comments.

2. Work Programme of the Second Meeting

At the meeting from 26 February to 8 March the Working Party will examine the items already selected. The following order is suggested, with tentative dates in parenthesis: oilseeds and vegetable oils (26-28 February, possibility to include the morning of 1 March); hard fibres (3-4 March); cotton (5 March); wood and timber (6 March). It is understood that in dealing with hard fibres and cotton, the Working Party will discuss also the exports to the Common Market from the Associated Territories of manufactures made from these fibres. The Working Party will wish to decide whether to discuss in this connexion also the imports of these manufactures into the Associated Territories.

A general discussion on the final report would be held on 7 March, with a possibility for continuing in the morning of 8 March.
3. Further Meetings

The Working Party has in principle decided to hold a third meeting from 24 March to 2 April to examine additional items proposed by contracting parties (listed in IC/WPl/14). The Working Party would at its present meeting select the items to be studied. Depending on how extensive the programme will be the Working Party might, however, consider if these additional commodities could not be dealt with by (a) prolonging the second meeting until 12 March; and (b) to convene a few days before the Intersessional Committee, i.e. on 10 April. It might be possible to examine some of the products in two sub-groups, working simultaneously. It is further suggested that items other than metals and minerals might be examined from 10 to 12 March, and that the whole metal group could be taken up from 10 to 12 April, or vice versa. In order to expedite the work the delegations would be asked to communicate to the secretariat their view-points on all the commodities thus selected. These memoranda would be circulated to contracting parties well in advance of the discussion in the Working Party.

4. Reporting to the Intersessional Committee

In the days of 10 to 12 April, the Working Party could, in addition to dealing with commodities, also finalize its report. As the secretariat would need some time to prepare and issue the report and delegations would wish to consult with their governments, it is suggested that the report might be presented to the Intersessional Committee at the end of the second week of its meeting.

5. Work Programme after April 1958

The report to the Intersessional Committee should contain a statement indicating clearly how much of the first stage of the examination (i.e. effects resulting from the exports from Associated Territories) the Working Party considers has been done, and what still would remain. Further, the report should indicate how the Working Party could proceed with further work on the first stage and it should suggest how to deal with the other aspects (as spelled out in Section C of the Report of Sub-Group D).