Statement
by the representative of France at the meeting held on 25 March 1958

The representatives of the Six wish to express the following views concerning the reports prepared by the Working Party:

1. Commodity reports

The representatives of the Six consider that these individual commodity reports correspond to the task assigned to the Working Party. They are prepared to recognize that, subject to certain modifications, these reports reflect the views which were expressed during the Working Party's discussions.

2. General part of the report

(i) The Six recognize that the individual commodity reports must be presented and linked together by a general report.

(ii) It was their understanding that the Working Party had agreed that, as was logical, the structure of this general part of the report should be as follows:

- Introduction: list of documents referred to expression of thanks to the Six, to the secretariat, etc.

- I. Legal issues:
  - the terms of reference
  - statement by the representatives of the Six regarding the legal implications of the studies
  - the question of the non-inclusion of the Overseas Departments in the Working Party's work

II. Methods of economic analysis

III. General issues which arose repeatedly in connexion with the study of individual commodities

  e.g. quantitative restrictions
  agricultural policy

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1 It was agreed by the Working Party that this statement would be distributed to all members.
IV. Presentation of the individual reports:

(a) List of the commodities, trade in which was studied.
Criteria for the selection of these products.

(b) Plan of study.

They refuse to consider that the material submitted by the United Kingdom delegation under the heading 'Part II - Collated Summary' reflects the decision taken. In any event, they cannot accept the inclusion of considerations of this type in the general report, because

(a) in their opinion this part neither reflects the work of the Working Party nor conforms to its terms of reference. The Six consider that since the Working Party's discussion were conducted on a product-by-product basis, the report should also essentially be drawn up on that basis;

(b) the report represents an attempt to pass a general judgment on the basis of certain factors which were selected according to very specific criteria.

3. They transmit herewith, for use by the secretariat in drafting the general report, certain material concerning the views of the Six as expressed during the discussions, and in accordance with the structure given above. They trust the secretariat to prepare a draft report which gives an accurate summary of the Working Party's discussions, on the basis of material supplied by the various members.