The Committee examined the proposal submitted by the United States Government for a new round of tariff negotiations and at its second session most members of the Committee stated that their governments were prepared to participate in these negotiations. Consequently the Committee recommends to the CONTRACTING PARTIES the holding of a tariff conference along the lines proposed by the United States.

The Committee then considered the time-table for the conference. It took into account the fact that the powers of the President of the United States would expire on 30 June 1962, and that, in order to give sufficient time to participating countries to achieve useful results, it would be necessary for the actual negotiations to start not much later than the beginning of 1961. On the other hand, the Committee noted that, in accordance with the provisions of the Rome Treaty, the Members of the Community will start adapting their tariffs to the Common Tariff on 1 January 1962, which implies that the negotiations contemplated in Article XXIV:6 will have to be concluded before that date.

The Committee recognized that it would be practically impossible to start negotiations with the Community for new concessions on the Common Tariff before the other contracting parties had a clear idea of what the Common Tariff would look like as a result of the negotiations under Article XXIV:6.

The Committee agreed that the best practicable time-table for the conference would be the following: the conference would start on or around 1 September 1960; but the first part of the conference would be devoted exclusively to negotiations with the EEC under Article XXIV:6. In order to enable negotiations for new concessions to start early in 1961, as appears to be imperative in order to enable them to be conducted successfully, the negotiations under Article XXIV:6 should be concluded before Christmas 1960.

On the assumption that these negotiations would be concluded by that date, the negotiations for new concessions could start on 2 January 1961. The Committee however recognized that this would involve placing a heavy burden on participating countries and would require them to expedite both the preparations for the conference and the conduct of the negotiations themselves, but noted that, in spite of the difficulties involved for them, the governments members of the Committee as well as the Commission of the EEC were aware of the need to expedite these negotiations and were prepared to act accordingly. The CONTRACTING PARTIES would be well advised to include in their Decision regarding the conference a strong recommendation to all parties that they take
the necessary measures to conduct the negotiations under Article XXIV:6 with the utmost celerity so as to meet the target of Christmas 1960 for the end of such negotiations. Unless these negotiations are concluded by that date, and the second part of the conference starts early in January 1961, the time at the disposal of participating countries will not be sufficient to enable them to bring to a successful conclusion the negotiations for new concessions which are the main object of the conference.

Finally, the Committee feels that the Tariff Negotiations Committee should be instructed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES: (a) to follow very closely the course of the negotiations under Article XXIV:6; (b) to review the progress from time to time; and (c) to be ready to assist participating countries in eliminating the difficulties which might be holding up their negotiations.

The Committee submits to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for their consideration and approval the following proposals:

(i) that the CONTRACTING PARTIES decide to hold a Tariff Conference on the basis of the proposal submitted by the United States Government at the thirteenth session;

(ii) that the CONTRACTING PARTIES decide to convene the conference on 1 September 1960 and that the first part of the conference will be devoted to the carrying out of negotiations under Article XXIV:6 with the European Economic Community with a view to concluding such negotiations by Christmas 1960;

(iii) that the CONTRACTING PARTIES urge all the participating governments to make the necessary arrangements and to give the necessary instructions to enable their delegations to conclude the negotiations under Article XXIV:6 by Christmas 1960;

(iv) that, on the assumption that negotiations under Article XXIV:6 are concluded by that time, the negotiations for new concessions will start on 2 January 1961;

(v) that the CONTRACTING PARTIES instruct the Tariff Negotiations Committee: (a) to follow closely the course of the negotiations under Article XXIV:6, (b) to review the position periodically, and (c) to meet some time before 25 December 1960 to ensure that these negotiations will be concluded in time for the negotiations for new concessions to start on 2 January 1961, as contemplated, or soon thereafter;

(vi) that the CONTRACTING PARTIES agree that, for reasons of convenience, any renegotiations which governments intend to undertake before the end of the three-year period of firm validity, should take place during the first part of the tariff conference, i.e. from 1 September 1960 to 24 December 1960; and that, to that effect, these governments be invited to submit any notifications under Article XXVIII as early as possible and not later than 15 July 1960;
(vii) that an opportunity be given to Cambodia, and any other government which would be desirous of negotiating with a view to accession at this time, to carry out such negotiations during the second part of the conference, i.e. during the early part of 1961.