Draft Statistical Programme for the Provisional Committee

I. Short-term arrangement

1. Having regard to the duration of the arrangement, the statistics collected should be on a monthly basis. In order that they may be available as rapidly as possible it seems preferable that the countries concerned should furnish data under the following headings as and when available:

   (i) value of total imports and exports of cotton textile articles, if possible broken down into four main categories of products (see list of categories in Annex). If the breakdown is made, it is desirable that tonnages of yarn and fabrics should also be indicated;

   (ii) value of imports by provenance and of exports by destination for all cotton textile articles;

   (iii) value of imports by provenance and of exports by destination for each of the categories of products mentioned above; quantities should also be indicated in the case of yarn and fabrics.

Similar data would be necessary for the base period of the arrangement, i.e. for each of the twelve months from July 1960 to June 1961.

2. With respect to yarn and fabrics the definitions are not identical in all countries. In foreign trade statistics and frequently also in production statistics, "cotton fabrics" include not only pure cotton articles but also those made principally of cotton. As regards wearing apparel, the international nomenclatures (Brussels Nomenclature and Standard International Trade Classification) do not make any distinction by fibre. Each country concerned should therefore determine, on the basis of its detailed nomenclature for foreign trade, in which articles cotton is the predominant fibre.

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1 In the Brussels Nomenclature, articles are considered as consisting wholly of cotton if that material predominates in weight.

2 Each country should transmit to the secretariat a detailed list of articles in which cotton is considered as the predominant fibre, indicating the volume and value of trade in each of those articles for a recent year (or, if possible, for the twelve-month period from July 1960 to June 1961).
3. The Statistical Working Group which met in July 1961 considered that it would be very desirable that importing countries should provide statistics enabling imports intended for domestic consumption to be distinguished from those intended for re-export as such or after processing. In cases where these data are not regularly assembled it would be helpful if the countries concerned were to furnish estimates of quantities imported temporarily or re-exported after processing.

II. Long-term agreement

1. During the validity of the long-term agreement, statistics of cotton textile trade similar to those mentioned in connexion with the short-term arrangement will certainly have to be assembled. The groups of products selected for the compilation of statistics might be more detailed than in the case of the short-term arrangement. The Sub-Committee will have to determine which those groups should be and examine the extent to which adequate national statistics can be obtained.

2. Data relating to production and consumption of cotton articles should be assembled at regular intervals. The Sub-Committee might consider the kind of data which should be collected, and the frequency of collection.

3. It has also been requested that data relating to production capacity, and to plans for expanding that capacity, should be collected at regular intervals. The Sub-Committee might consider which statistics might be assembled in this field, and determine how frequently such statistics should be collected.