At its meeting on 5 December 1961, Committee II discussed the second report by the Study Group on the Measurement of Agricultural Protection (COM.II/127). As the Chairman of the Group, Mr. J. Kirk, was unable to attend the meeting, the report was submitted to the Committee by Mr. D. McKay, acting in his capacity as a member of the Group.

On the authority given by the Committee, the Group had tested the standard method for the measuring of the level of agricultural protection recommended in its first report (COM.II/103), by considering the results of a pilot study undertaken in respect of five countries. Three studies, in respect of Sweden, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom had been completed, while the studies in respect of the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States were well on the way to completion. Considering the results achieved so far, the Group had tried to overcome some difficulties which had come forward during these studies, and which had led the Group to the recommendation of some amendments to the standard method. The conclusion of the Group nevertheless was that the standard method seemed broadly to have succeeded in the countries to which it had so far been applied.

The Committee was appreciative of the work accomplished by the Group but did not think it appropriate to enter into a discussion on the substance of the report at this stage, since the findings of the Group were based predominantly on three studies, all in respect of European countries.

The Committee considered that it might be desirable to have a pilot study undertaken in respect of a southern hemisphere country. The Committee, therefore, invited the Australian Government, in view of its interest in the project, to undertake such a study in respect of Australia. The Australian delegate agreed to convey the invitation to his Government. The Committee while accepting
the second report by the Study Group as an interim report, agreed that a final assessment of the feasibility of the standard method was more appropriate when the results of the other two pilot studies were known. It invited the Group to continue its work and to report to the Committee on the basis of all the pilot studies, including, if available, any findings submitted by the Australian Government.