1. The Committee convened on 8 October 1962. As a matter of priority it examined progress made in pursuance of the Decision of 7 December 1961 on the implementation of the Conclusions of Ministers. The Committee agreed that, while significant progress had been made on the removal of barriers to the exports of less-developed countries, much remained to be done. It was decided to adjourn the meeting on 11 October and to reconvene during the session to allow governments to give further consideration to this matter. The Committee met again from 1-13 November to receive reports of progress made during the recess and to consider future objectives.

2. During its meetings of October-November 1962, the Committee also continued its work on other items on its agenda which aimed at exploring ways and means of expanding exports of less-developed countries as envisaged in its original programme of work (COM.III/1).

I. Implementation of the Conclusions of Ministers

Review of progress

3. The Committee took up the question of the removal of quantitative restrictions. Before the Committee was a summary table of import restrictions still applied to the products under review (COM.III/89), in which a distinction was drawn between restrictions maintained on balance-of-payments grounds and other restrictions. It was noted that since the meetings of the Committee in May 1962 there had been a reduction in the number of items on which restrictions were still being maintained by contracting parties, and also in the number of countries maintaining such restrictions on individual products under study in the Committee. The Committee also welcomed notifications of recent liberalization measures taken by members of the Committee. It was agreed that the secretariat should circulate an up-to-date version of the summary table, and this will appear as document COM.III/89/Rev.1. Attention was drawn to the relatively small number of cases in which

Spec(62)327
restrictions were being applied for other than balance-of-payments reasons but
the Committee noted that, in contrast to the encouraging picture on certain
items, restrictions were maintained by some industrialized countries on other
items of great importance to the export trade of less-developed countries. Of
the items in the first list of products, coffee, vegetable oils, jute manufactures,
coir manufactures and cotton textiles might be given as examples of this. It
was pointed out that, in many cases, such quantitative restrictions were in
contravention of the GATT and that the observations made in the report on the
May meeting of the Committee (L/1768, paragraph 8) still applied to these
restrictions.

4. Turning to an examination of progress made towards the elimination of
tariff barriers to the exports of the less-developed countries, the Committee
welcomed the fact that the 1960/61 Tariff Conference had resulted in some 160
bindings or reductions of duties on items of interest to these countries. The
Committee also welcomed the passing of the United States Trade Expansion Act
of 1962 in a form which granted to the Administration the negotiating powers
which it had requested. In substance the Act was as summarized during the
May meeting of the Committee by the representative of the United States. The
Committee agreed that there was, therefore, no need to add to the comments
which it had made in the report on its May meeting (L/1768, paragraph 16) on
the draft legislation.

5. The Committee welcomed the fact that certain countries, notably Austria,
Italy and Finland, in the case of tea, had, since the last meeting of the
Committee, made unilateral reductions in tariffs of benefit to the exports
of less-developed countries, and reiterated its belief in the value of such
unilateral reductions. The Committee noted that no action had yet been taken
in response to the proposal, made at its last meeting, that early consideration
should be given to the reduction of import duties and taxes on unwrought copper.
The delegate of Rhodesia and Nyasaland said that, in view of the difficulties
which might result for some less-developed countries, his Government withdrew
its proposal that consideration should be given to the conversion of the non-
protective elements of high specific duties on tobacco to an ad valorem basis.
6. The Committee considered proposals that further studies should be undertaken in the tariff field. Members of the Committee felt that these studies would highlight certain aspects of the Committee's task and that any results of these studies should be made available to the Working Party on Procedures for Tariff Reductions. The Committee also had before it a Secretariat Note on this subject (COM.III/97). The Committee agreed that a study should be undertaken on the existence of differential tariffs on the semi-processed and processed derivatives of the major products exported by less-developed countries and that the secretariat should circulate a first draft in about one month's time. It was also agreed that a study should be undertaken on the general incidence of import duties on the major manufactured exports of the developing countries in the main markets for these goods, compared with the incidence of duties on more sophisticated manufactured goods primarily traded between the highly industrialized countries. While it was hoped that a draft of this study might be circulated in about two months' time, it was agreed that this would be dependent upon, amongst other things, the availability of the ad valorem equivalents of specific duties in the countries concerned. It was also agreed that the secretariat should prepare a summary table of import duties and internal taxes on tropical beverages and should consider again the feasibility of drawing up a summary table of import duties on a selected number of items along the lines of the summary table on quantitative restrictions contained in COM.III/89.

7. The Committee examined progress on the removal or reduction of revenue duties and internal fiscal charges and welcomed the announcement by the representative of Finland of a sizeable reduction in the Finnish duty on tea.

8. It was also considered that the maintenance of large trading margins by State-trading countries would be equivalent to the imposition of revenue duties or internal fiscal charges. The Committee noted that a number of replies had been received to the supplementary questionnaire on the operation of State monopolies affecting the exports of less-developed countries contained in L/1768. It was also noted that when examining this question the Committee might find it necessary to work out a method which would enable it to measure
the effects of these regulations. It was agreed that, in order to allow time for the study of information received and for the completion of replies by other contracting parties, the examination of this matter should be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee.

9. No further questions of subsidization affecting the exports of less-developed countries were put before the Committee for consideration in the light of the Decision of 7 December 1961.

10. In concluding its review of progress the Committee drew attention to the fact that, while progress had undoubtedly been slow, significant results had been achieved since the Ministerial meeting. Progress towards the removal of quantitative restrictions might perhaps be singled out for mention in this connexion. The Committee also considered that the considerable advances which had been made since its establishment in November 1958 should not now be forgotten.

11. The Committee concluded however that, in relation to the magnitude of the task, progress had been limited and slow. While fully appreciating the efforts which were being made by contracting parties both in the GATT and in other international bodies to expand the export earnings of the less-developed countries, the Committee recalled that the Decision of 7 December 1961 in which the CONTRACTING PARTIES had agreed that immediate steps should be taken to establish specific programmes of action, and where feasible target terminal dates, for the progressive reduction and elimination of barriers to the exports of less-developed countries. The Committee noted that it had not as yet been possible to establish such programmes of action and turned therefore to an examination of specific proposals on this subject.
II. OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS FOR ACTION

12. At its meeting during the current session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the Committee had before it document COM.III/95 (annexed) containing a proposal for a programme of action submitted by representatives of fourteen GATT countries.

13. In introducing the proposed programme of action, members of the Committee sponsoring the programme, explained that the proposals took account of the difficulties which might be faced by the contracting parties concerned in implementing the proposals. It was for this reason that the programme made provision for phasing the reduction or elimination of barriers over a period of time, even where such barriers were maintained in contravention of the General Agreement. Nevertheless, it was their earnest hope that more rapid progress would be made, it being understood that the additional time provided for the elimination of certain of these barriers would only apply in exceptional circumstances. Indeed, in their view, early action for the removal of such barriers was imperative if the GATT was to continue as an effective instrument for solving international trade problems and as a basis for expanding trade opportunities for all contracting parties. They stressed that their proposal for a programme of action was not intended merely as a basis for discussion, but was a reflection of the concern of less-developed countries for early and effective action along the lines indicated in this programme.

14. The Committee expressed considerable sympathy with the motives which have led to the submission of the proposed programme of action and members undertook to request their Governments to study it carefully and bearing fully in mind the trade needs of the less-developed countries. They anticipated that the clarifications given during the present examination of the document would considerably help such a study. At the same time, however, whilst fully agreeing on the need for further progress in removing barriers to the trade of less-developed countries, some members of the Committee emphasized that in concentrating attention on remaining problems, the progress that had already been made should not be lost sight of. In their view, the Committee had indeed made steady and valuable inroads on barriers and, just as important, had brought about an almost complete standstill in the
creation of further barriers. Furthermore, the Committee had been highly successful in creating amongst governments a very real awareness of less-developed countries' problems which was having a considerable effect on policies affecting these countries.

15. Below is a summary of discussion in the Committee relating to the proposed seven point programme of action contained in document COM.III/95.

(a) **Standstill on new tariff and non-tariff barriers**

16. Members of the Committee sponsoring the proposed programme of action explained that the first point was essentially a standstill provision under which industrialized countries would be asked to use their best endeavours not to erect new tariff or non-tariff barriers against exports of less-developed countries. In the first instance, this standstill provision might be applied to the products included in Lists One to Three examined by the Committee. Obviously, the request for a standstill should not be interpreted as condoning the maintenance of measures applied in contravention of the General Agreement or as precluding action towards the reduction or removal of these barriers, particularly the elimination of discriminatory restrictions.

17. Commenting on this proposal, members of the Committee pointed out that the work of Committee III in itself might be considered an implicit guarantee that no new barriers to the export trade of less-developed countries would be erected. They agreed, however, that there might be merit in having an affirmation from contracting parties that, without prejudice to their contractual rights under the General Agreement, they would use their best endeavours not to impose new barriers, or raise existing barriers, against exports identified by the Committee as being of particular interest to less-developed countries. The Committee agreed that adherence to such a standstill should not be considered a justification for delaying action in the removal of barriers affecting exports of less-developed countries. Some members of the Committee pointed out that, while no new legal commitment was being asked for in undertaking best endeavours to maintain a standstill, it was obviously in the best interest of less-developed countries that, so far as tariffs were concerned, duties on products of real interest should be bound and this was a matter which
should be considered by the Working Party on Tariff Reduction.

(b) Elimination of quantitative restrictions

18. Members of the Committee sponsoring the proposed programme of action, explained that the second point in this programme envisaged that all quantitative restrictions which affect exports of less-developed countries and are inconsistent with the provisions of the General Agreement or not explicitly authorized by the CONTRACTING PARTIES, would be eliminated within a period of one year. In exceptional circumstances, where it was established in consultation that the elimination of restrictions within this period would not be feasible, the restrictions on the items concerned should be progressively reduced, and eliminated not later than 31 December 1955. This did not mean, however, that the repeated requests of the governments sponsoring this proposal for the removal of these restrictions had lost their urgency or that they had agreed to a blanket waiver for the maintenance of such restrictions. Indeed, they earnestly hoped that progress in the elimination of remaining restrictions would be made at an accelerated pace. They pointed out that failure to obtain an indication from contracting parties regarding the early removal of such restrictions would be a serious setback to the work of the Committee and to the meaningfulness of the General Agreement as an instrument for promoting and maintaining mutually advantageous trading relationships.

19. There was widespread support in the Committee for a recommendation to contracting parties to give serious consideration to the proposal and to use their best endeavours to eliminate existing restrictions within the time-table proposed. Nevertheless, some doubts were expressed as to the desirability of suggesting any time for the removal of those restrictions which were being maintained inconsistently with the General Agreement. Indeed, it was felt by these members, that in order to accelerate progress in the removal of such restrictions the CONTRACTING PARTIES should consider instructing the Committee to evolve a procedure for confrontation and consultation with contracting parties maintaining such restrictions, especially in view of the fact that some members of the Committee had indicated that it would not be possible for their Governments, at least at this time, to indicate firm target terminal dates for the elimination of these restrictions. It was proposed that the first of such confrontations
might take place at the next meeting of the Committee and that at such time the industrialized countries should be asked to report on the progress they had made in eliminating restrictions, what action they had taken to increase access to their markets, and their plans for future action.

(c) Duty free entry of tropical products

20. The third point of the proposed programme of action envisages action by industrialized countries which would permit duty free entry of tropical products into their markets by 31 December 1963. Members of the Committee who sponsored this proposal stressed the importance which their respective governments attached to early action in this field. They pointed out that duty free entry of tropical products would be of direct and primary benefit to less-developed countries. They recalled that many members of the Special Group on Trade in Tropical Products had indicated their support at the end of their meeting in June for the Nigerian proposal, made at the nineteenth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, that duty free entry for tropical products should be implemented at an early date.

21. Members of the Committee recalled that at their meeting in February when setting up the Special Group, the associated States of the EEC had been invited to be represented in the work of the Special Group, but that for practical reasons it had not been possible for these States to attend the meeting of the Group in June 1962. These members of the Committee stressed the importance they attached to representation by these States in the work of the Special Group. In reply to a question concerning the negotiations between the States associated with the EEC and the EEC for a new Association Convention, a matter directly relevant to the work of the Group, the representative of the EEC explained that these negotiations were still in progress.

22. Members of the Committee representing some industrialized countries subscribed to the principles and objectives behind this proposal but others pointed out that there might be certain practical and legal difficulties of achieving the goal of duty free entry before action could be taken in the framework of the next Tariff Conference. This should not be understood, however, to imply that they envisaged that action in this field would depend on reciprocal concessions being granted by less-developed
countries as a prerequisite for achieving their goal of duty free entry for tropical products.

23. The Committee recognized the importance and the sense of urgency which the less developed countries attached to the early achievement of duty free entry of tropical products into markets of industrialized countries and considered that the appropriate course would be for the CONTRACTING PARTIES to instruct the Special Group on Tropical Products to press ahead with the studies now being undertaken by the Special Group so as to provide information on which it could be judged whether conditions can be established to enable this matter to be dealt with within the time suggested in the framework of the proposed Tariff Conference. The question would also be of direct concern to the Working Party on Tariff Reduction.

(d) Elimination of tariffs on industrial raw materials

24. Members of the Committee sponsoring this proposal explained that the fourth point of the proposed programme of action was designed to implement the recommendation contained in paragraph 4(b) of the Declaration by the CONTRACTING PARTIES of 7 December 1961, on the Promotion of the Trade of the Less-Developed Countries, that "Governments should consider the elimination of tariffs on primary products important in the trade of less-developed countries". They pointed out that early action on the elimination of such tariffs would be of direct economic advantage to industrialized and less-developed countries alike. Particularly as regards industrial raw materials, to which this proposal primarily referred, there appeared to be no material difficulties which would prevent action at an early date. They explained that although no target dates for the elimination of such tariffs had been proposed, it was the hope of the countries sponsoring this proposal that governments, in implementing their commercial policy and in preparing for the next Tariff Conference, would keep the desirability of early action in this regard in mind.

25. Members of the Committee representing industrialized countries stated that, subject to certain limitations imposed for example by existing legislation or by contractual obligations to afford preferential treatment to imports from certain sources, they could subscribe in principle to the objectives of taking towards the elimination of the tariffs concerned.
26. The Committee agreed to recommend to the CONTRACTING PARTIES that this proposal should be submitted to the urgent attention of the Working Party on Tariff Reduction and that contracting parties should be invited to give serious consideration to this proposal with a view to permitting early action in this field.

(e) Reduction and elimination of tariffs on certain semi-processed and processed products

27. Point five provides for the preparation of a schedule for the elimination or reduction by at least 50 per cent from their present level, of tariff barriers over a period of three years on exports of processed and semi-processed goods of export interest to less-developed countries. In introducing this proposal, members of the Committee pointed out that while tariff reductions had been negotiated during the recent Tariff Conference for many of the more complex types of manufactures, no or only limited progress had been made in the reduction of tariffs on the simpler manufactures which were of particular export interest to the less-developed countries. Indeed, in a number of cases, the less-developed countries refused concessions on these products. The elimination of the anomaly of duties being reduced little in respect of the more sophisticated types of products, while progress was made in reducing duties on the simpler manufactures, was of the utmost importance to the less-developed countries if the benefits which they were entitled to expect under the General Agreement were to be obtained and preserved. Pointing to the difficulties which less-developed countries faced in negotiating concessions on the basis of reciprocity, a problem which had been recognized both in the General Agreement itself and in the repeated pronouncements by the CONTRACTING PARTIES in this regard, these members of the Committee pointed to the necessity of early action, both unilaterally and in the framework of the proposed new tariff round, for the removal or significant reduction of tariff barriers affecting exports of semi-processed and processed products of export interest to the less-developed countries. Any action in this regard would assist less-developed countries in achieving the much needed diversification of their export trade.

28. The Committee noted that the tariff studies referred to in paragraph 6 of this report would assist the Working Party on Tariff Reduction if it were called upon to examine this proposal. While expressing sympathy with
the objective of a 50 per cent reduction in the tariffs concerned over the next three years, it was pointed out by a member of the Committee that under its existing legal authority it would not be possible to undertake such a reduction within the time limit suggested. Nevertheless, adoption of a recommendation urging rapid/progressive action in this sector was acceptable. It was also pointed out that reduction of duties especially on processed products could have repercussions on trade between the industrialized countries themselves.

29. The Committee agreed that measures for assisting less-developed countries in diversifying their export trade were of vital importance. The Committee agreed to recommend to CONTRACTING PARTIES that the Working Party on Tariff Reduction be instructed to examine this proposal and to advise contracting parties with a view to achieving, at an early date, the objectives set out in the proposal.

(f) Progressive reduction of internal charges and revenue duties

30. The sixth point of the proposed programme of action provides that industrialized countries shall progressively reduce internal charges and revenue duties on products wholly or mainly produced in less-developed countries, with a view to the elimination of such duties and charges by 31 December 1965. Introducing this proposal, members of the Committee sponsoring the proposed programme of action expressed appreciation of the progress which had been made in the reduction of revenue duties and fiscal charges by a number of countries in response to the recommendation of the Committee. They expressed disappointment, however, that although action in this field had been under discussion in the Committee almost since its inception, and notwithstanding the fact that all Ministers had accepted that part of the Ministerial Declaration of 30 November 1961, relating to the removal or considerable reduction of revenue duties and fiscal charges, action or an indication of action being taken in the near future on this recommendation was still outstanding in respect of a number of important trading nations. Failure to act in this regard had had a continually depressing effect on the overall work of Committee III and was indeed, a serious challenge to the effectiveness of the programme of trade expansion of the CONTRACTING PARTIES
It was in a spirit of compromise that the proposal for eliminating such barriers by 31 December 1965 had been made. It was believed that this target date should permit the necessary adjustments in the fiscal system of the countries concerned to be made with a minimum of difficulties. They stated that it was their earnest hope that governments, maintaining such fiscal charges and revenue duties identified as barriers to exports of less developed countries, would provide an early and positive response to this proposal.

31. Some members of the Committee representing industrialized countries commended the cautious realism which pervaded this proposal. This did not imply, however, that they would not wish to see significant progress in this direction being made before the end of the three year period given as a target date for the elimination of internal duties and fiscal charges on such items as cocoa, coffee and tea. Reference was made to a proposal made by the Swedish delegation for a multilateral approach to the problem of revenue duties and internal fiscal charges (COM.TII/96). In the view of the Swedish delegation, a multilateral approach to these problems would not only make a more significant contribution to the export earning capacity of the less-developed countries than isolated action, but might also overcome some of the internal difficulties at present expected by the countries concerned to result from the elimination of revenue duties and internal fiscal charges on such items such as coffee, cocoa and tea.

32. Some members of the Committee explained that it would be difficult in present circumstances to adopt a programme along the lines and with the suggested terminal dates for the elimination of fiscal charges and revenue duties indicated in this point of the proposed programme of action. They pointed out that their governments were not oblivious to the needs of the less-developed countries as was demonstrated by the measures adopted by their governments, and the aid rendered to less developed countries in assisting their economic development. Reference was made in this context also to the obligations they had undertaken under the recently concluded International Coffee Agreement.

33. In considering the present situation, a member of the Committee noted that several stages could be envisaged in overcoming difficulties caused
by the existence of high fiscal charges and revenue duties. Thus one could envisage, as a first step, a standby on any increases in such charges and to a large extent this was the present position of many countries. Secondly, governments could decide not to look for increased revenue from existing charges. Thirdly, governments, in circumstances which permitted reduction in existing charges, could put taxes on products of interest to the less-developed countries in the forefront of taxation relief. Fourthly, governments could undertake to use their best endeavours to make a general reduction of such taxes and finally, work toward their ultimate elimination.

34. The Committee recognized that a solution to the problem of reducing or eliminating fiscal charges and revenue duties on products wholly or mainly produced in less-developed countries in accordance with an agreed timetable might have to be sought at the Ministerial level. In view of the importance which most Members of the Committee attached to early action in this field, it was decided that the question of a programme of action be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Committee to consider possibilities for implementing the proposal for action set out in document COM;III/95, together with an earlier Brazilian proposal (see paragraph 19 of L/1732), which provided for a reduction in two stages of all revenue duties and fiscal charges affecting coffee, cocoa and tea by 50 per cent in 1963 and by another 50 per cent in 1965. Governments which had indicated that they had difficulties in accepting these proposals should again consider possibilities for implementing these proposals or, submit acceptable alternative proposals to the Committee prior to its next meeting.

35. The seventh point of the proposed programme of action provides for an annual reporting procedure by contracting parties on progress made in removing restrictions on the above mentioned barriers and on measures which they propose to take in the next twelve months.

36. There was wide agreement in the Committee on the usefulness of such a reporting procedure and there was also considerable support for the further suggestion that Committee III be given authority to conduct consultations with contracting parties, whether or not members of the Committee, with a view to stimulating additional progress toward the Committee objectives.
37. Without taking a final position on all of the specific points, the Committee endorsed the underlying principles and objectives of the proposals contained in document COM.III/95. The Committee commended the sense of realism which pervaded these proposals. In submitting this report to CONTRACTING PARTIES the Committee recommends that the proposals contained in COM.III/95, together with the Committee's comments thereon, should be brought to the urgent attention of all contracting parties so that in the forthcoming meeting of the Special Group on Tropical Products, in the Working Party on Tariff Reduction, in the other forums of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, as well as in further meetings of Committee III itself, speedy and positive action can be pursued towards the attainment of reduction and elimination of barriers to the trade of less developed countries.
III. Enlargement of Scope of Committee's Studies

38. The Committee felt that, when consideration was given to specific programmes of action in terms of specific commodities, full account should be taken of the wider framework within which decisions on these problems should be made. During the past few years the magnitude of the task facing the less-developed countries and the primary importance of increasing their export earnings if this task was to be fulfilled had, however, been widely recognized. Even postulating the very modest annual rate of growth of just under 2 per cent in per capita income in the less developed countries during the present decade, the Executive Secretary had indicated in a recent address that the import demand of those countries would amount to some $43,000 million, or 60 per cent above the levels prevailing at the end of the fifties. During the last decade the accumulated trade gap of the less developed countries had amounted to about $20,000 million and there had been, in addition, a net outflow of $13,000 million for servicing external indebtedness. Attention was also drawn to "International Trade, 1961" which contained an estimate of the extremely high rate at which production in developing regions would have to increase in order to enable them to maintain a "minimum desirable rate of growth" during the coming fifteen years. A steady expansion in export earnings would be necessary if this was to be achieved.

39. The work of the Committee, which had explored in detail the barriers to the export of individual products, was a vital link between a recognition of the task facing the international trading community and positive action. The Committee felt, however, that it should not restrict its attention to those items contained in the first three lists of products and that a comprehensive list of items of importance in the export trade of less developed countries should be prepared. It was agreed that the secretariat should circulate a draft of such a list which would make a distinction between items currently of importance to the less developed countries and items which these countries might be expected to export in the relatively near future. Less developed countries represented on the Committee indicated that they would be in a position to supply short lists of items in this category. It was agreed that in compiling this list products of interest to less developed countries not represented on the Committee should be included.
IV. Other Work of the Committee

Examination of development plans

40. At its meeting during the twentieth session the Committee examined the trade and payments aspects of the Second Five-Year Plan of Pakistan. The report on this consultation is contained in L/..... It was agreed that, in possible future exercises of this type, it would be useful if members of the Committee were to prepare estimates of future imports from the consulting country. It was also agreed that the possibility of holding follow-up meetings with contracting parties whose plans have been discussed in the Committee should be explored.

Production and marketing techniques

41. The Committee took note of the paper on recent activities of international organizations in relation to production and marketing techniques (COM.III/91) which it was considered would provide useful background information for future work on this subject in the GATT and which would minimize the danger of duplicating the work being carried out by other bodies.

42. It was agreed that all contracting parties should be invited to submit papers on this subject to the Committee. It was felt that industrialized countries, especially those which had already had experience in providing assistance on this subject to less developed countries, might have a valuable contribution to make and also that it would be useful to have papers from the less developed countries themselves setting out the difficulties which they had actually encountered. This would enable the Committee to examine the problem in a detailed and concrete fashion.

Export promotion

43. The Committee had before it proposals on assistance in the promotion of trade of less developed countries, contained in COM.III/92, and a proposal by the representative of Brazil, contained in COM.III/93, that an International Trade Information Centre should be established by the CONTRACTING PARTIES to collate and publish information from a variety of sources, including GATT records. It was agreed that, in particular, the suggestion that further space might be made available on special terms to the less developed countries in government and trade publications, as well as in the daily press so that these countries could
publicize their export offers. Turning to document CCM.III/93, members of the Committee agreed that the proposal which it contained was a stimulating one which required further study, but indicated that certain difficulties seemed to exist both on what might be termed the supply and demand sides. A preliminary examination of the proposals suggested that much of the information to be collected and published by the proposed Centre was already easily available. On the other hand, it was felt that insofar as the larger industrialized countries were concerned, the work of the proposed Centre might well duplicate facilities already available while for other countries a full coverage of all import markets might not be necessary as even relatively small countries would probably already possess adequate information on their largest export markets. Members of the Committee suggested that further information should be collected on the type of information for which an actual demand might be said to exist and noted that it would be necessary to collect such information before an accurate estimate could be made on the financing and staff aspects of the proposed Centre.

44. The representative of Brazil referred to remarks on the experience of national governments in collecting this type of information. It had been stated with reference to the magnitude of the task facing the proposed Centre that even the largest industrialized countries had found it impossible to set up a perfectly functioning commercial information service. He pointed out that international action would be necessary if such a service was to be established. He agreed that much of the information which was proposed for inclusion in the publications of the Centre was already available. It was, however, not always in a form which was readily intelligible to the average importer or exporter. It would be the Centre's function to simplify and to distribute its publications in as many languages as was necessary.

45. It was agreed that the secretariat should prepare a note on the present availability of material on the topics proposed for inclusion in the publications of the Centre. The secretariat should also circulate a short questionnaire to all contracting parties designed to obtain some idea of the potential demand for this type of information in their countries, the categories of information not at present readily available to them, and the export markets for which information would be required.
4.6. It was also agreed that, after sufficient replies had been received to the questionnaire, a meeting of the Committee should be held, to which specialists in this field should be invited, and at which the trade promotion aspect of the Committee's work could be reviewed in detail, together with proposals designed to improve the flow of trade information.