DRAFT REPORT

Addendum to the Draft in Spec(62)86

V. Trade Barriers Affecting Exports of Tropical Products

20. The attention of the Committee was called to the proposal made by Nigeria at the ministerial meeting for duty-free entry for tropical products. The Committee recalled the directive of the CONTRACTING PARTIES that it should bear in mind the view of most Ministers that, in establishing specific programmes of action, the question of duty-free entry for tropical products should be given careful attention. In discussing arrangements which should be made for giving effect to this directive, the Committee noted various factors relevant to the trade in tropical products and heard the views of many members. The United States delegation proposed that a special group should be established to conduct a fundamental review of the general problem of trade in tropical products throughout the world, including impediments to such trade, methods for improving trade patterns and practices, the relation of such trade to economic development and to efforts to assist such development; that the group should then prepare proposals on how such trade should be conducted; and that the group should consist of government representatives at a senior level.
21. Many members of the Committee welcomed this initiative and considered it to be a constructive and valuable approach. Some members of the Committee noted that, whilst it was entirely up to the governments concerned to decide at what level they should be represented on any international meeting, it would be appropriate for the Committee to stress the desirability of a high level of representation being provided for this Panel, having regard to the nature of the matter under discussion. These members indicated that they would be prepared to recommend to their governments accordingly.

22. In view of the importance of the subject matter the Committee considered that it would be more appropriate for the Group to be appointed by the Council of Representatives than by the Committee itself, although it would be fully within its competence to do so.

23. In the light of this discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Council that a Special Group on Trade in Tropical Products be set up with the following terms of reference and membership:

**Terms of reference**

Taking into account all factors bearing on present and future problems in international trade in tropical products, to consider practical measures to overcome difficulties confronting less-developed countries exporting these products.

**Membership**

- Brazil
- EEC
- Nigeria
- Canada
- Ghana
- United Kingdom
- Ceylon
- India
- United States
- Senegal

In addition to these members, Senegal should be invited to participate in the work of the Group.
VI. Other Work of the Committee

In the original programme of work of the Committee set out in COM.III/1, there were envisaged certain other activities aimed at exploring ways and means of expanding exports of less-developed countries. The Committee at its April/May meeting should, insofar as time was available, continue with any such work which had not been accomplished. In particular, the Committee considered that, in the light of the study which it had carried out of the Indian Third Five-Year Plan, it should take up any other such plans which might have been made available by contracting parties for this purpose and the examination of which had by that time become practicable.