1. The Budget Working Party which met in September 1961 included the following paragraphs in its report to the Council (L/1562):

"8. During the perusal of the printing item (Part II, Section 4) the Working Party expressed concern about the steady increase in the estimates over the last few years, a tendency which they had observed in other international organizations. Without proposing any deduction in the item, several members stated that they were not entirely convinced of the usefulness of some of the documents and publications printed by the secretariat. The representative of the Executive Secretary stated that the secretariat was fully conscious of the problem referred to, which was under constant review by the Executive Secretary, who was anxious for contracting parties to express their views as to the usefulness of the publications now printed by the secretariat.

"9. The Working Party therefore recommends that the Council review this matter with the object of providing the necessary guidance to the secretariat."

2. Subsequently, at its meeting of September/October 1961, the Executive Secretary informed the Council of his intention to circulate before the next Council meeting a brief questionnaire listing GATT publications and asking contracting parties to express their views on the usefulness of and the need to continue the individual publications so listed.

3. In September 1962 the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration was informed of the very few replies received from contracting parties and the following was reported to the Council (L/1842):
8. During the perusal of Part II, Section 4 - Printing, the Committee noted that the Executive Secretary has been unable to submit the report on the review of printing costs because an insufficient number of replies had as yet been received to the enquiries contained in document L/1806. The Committee suggests that the Council may wish to request the Executive Secretary to draw the attention of the CONTRACTING PARTIES once more to the need for early replies to the enquiries contained in document L/1806. The Committee further proposes that the Council appoint an ad hoc working group with strictly defined terms of reference to examine the replies to document L/1806 when received. The working group could also consider various other questions raised during the Committee's discussions of Section 3 (vii) - Reproduction and distribution of documents, of the estimates of expenditure for the financial year 1963 and any other relevant matters referred to it by the Executive Secretary. The working group should report in the first instance to the Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration for examination of the financial aspects of its recommendations.


5. Reminders were sent in May 1963 to contracting parties having not yet replied to the questionnaire.

6. To date the following reactions have been received:

Acknowledgements with comments:

Australia  
Belgium  
Ceylon  
Czechoslovakia  
Denmark  
Greece  
Haiti  
Israel  
Japan  
Malaya, Federation of  
Netherlands, Kingdom of the  
New Zealand  

Acknowledgements without comments:

Finland  
India  
Luxembourg  

Nigeria, Federation of  
Portugal  
Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Federation of  
South Africa, Republic of  
Switzerland  
Tanganyika  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
United States of America  
Uruguay  
Yugoslavia  

Pakistan  
Sweden
No replies:

Argentina  Ghana
Austria  Indonesia
Brazil  Italy
Burma  Nicaragua
Cambodia  Norway
Canada  Peru
Chile  Poland
Cuba  Sierra Leone
Dominican Republic  Spain
France  Tunisia
Germany, Federal Republic of  Turkey

7. Extracts from the letters offering comments are given below (countries listed in alphabetical order):

8. Australia - letter of 5 June 1963 (original: English)

"The majority of the publications listed in document L/1806 are of a basic or technical character. It therefore appears undesirable that there should be any reduction in their number.

"The decisions taken at the recent GATT ministerial meeting will undoubtedly require an increase in the volume of documentation. This fact, taken together with the expansion of GATT membership, suggests that the cost of GATT printing programmes is more likely to increase rather than decrease in the immediate future.

"In this event, however, every effort should be made to keep these probable increases to the minimum consistent with meeting the real needs of the CONTRACTING PARTIES' work programmes.

"Document L/1806 might be improved as a basis for discussion by the Working Group if it contained estimates of the number of each publication printed, the number which will be distributed free of charge and the probable income from sales."


"Orders for documents have been considered from the aspect both of the interest of publications and of the quantity requested. This was done having regard to the needs of all the departmental services to which they are distributed.

"As regards the principle of publishing, the documents listed in L/1806 can be considered as being of real usefulness. One may wonder however, whether the trade intelligence paper mentioned in Item 7 of the list of publications does not duplicate that indicated
in Item 4; if this is not the case, and if these texts relate to different aspects of international trade, could they not be combined in a single publication, the resulting total cost of which would no doubt be lower than the sum of the present costs.

"Furthermore, the cost of the publications included under Items 8 and 11 of the list of publications (L/1806) seems rather high."

10. Ceylon - letter of 26 June 1963 (original: English)

"I have examined the list of publications on which the allocation of $45,000 for 1962 was spent. I cannot think of any documents in the list which can be safely dispensed with to cut down the Printing Vote. For us (I believe this is true for all headquarter officers in capitals, particularly far away from Geneva) who do not participate in the day-to-day work of the GATT as you do, the only guide to what is happening in the GATT are the GATT publications. Actually, our problem is that we do not get enough of these publications to keep ourselves abreast of what is happening, except in the case of session documents, which I find are not listed in the list on which the Printing Vote is spent. It is a matter of surprise to me that contracting parties are critical of a comparatively small printing bill like $45,000. GATT work, particularly as it is evolving now, is revolutionary to most new countries and if the GATT is to attract new adherents and make its work popular, pamphlets like the Activities of the GATT must be available in greater volume. If any savings are to be made they should be sought by the use of cheaper paper rather than by cutting down existing publications."

11. Czechoslovakia - letter of 6 June 1963 (original: English)

"... I wish to inform you that the documents and publications printed so far by the secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, including those mentioned in document L/1806, are in our view very useful and valuable.

"The expenditure incurred does not represent an essential part of the GATT budget, and we are not convinced that a limitation of this activity of the secretariat would serve any useful purpose and bring about a significant reduction of the budget expenditure.

"In our view only a possible limitation of the number of publications distributed to contracting parties free of charge could be usefully considered."
12. Denmark - letter of 14 June 1963 (original: English)

"... the Danish Authorities find that the publications of the GATT are in general very valuable to their work. It is therefore not possible to propose reductions in the current issuance of these publications implying savings of any significance. As regards the publication 'Status of Multilateral Procedure' it might be suggested, however, that it be issued only once a year instead of bi-annually."


"I believe I can state that the competent authorities in Athens have no remarks to make on the contents of document L/1806 other than that they consider that no substantial change should be made to the practice followed hitherto by GATT in regard to documents for publication."


"With reference to the list of GATT publications set forth in document L/1806, none of the various items seems superfluous to us. We therefore approve the programme as presented."

15. Israel - letter of 26 June 1963 (original: English)

"Taking into consideration the widening scope of activities of GATT and the ever-increasing importance of its programme of work, the printing programme, as outlined in that document cannot be considered as in any way exceeding the bare minimum required for the efficient administration of the General Agreement.

"We have studied closely the list of publications and have not found a single item which in our opinion could be dispensed with. On the contrary, in view of the inherent complexity of GATT, its increasing membership and the general intention of bringing additional countries into closer relationship with it, it would appear necessary to print more publications of a general nature on the provisions, functions and practices of GATT, which would contain information beyond that available at present."

16. Japan - letter of 4 April 1963 (original: English)

"All the documents and the publications printed by the secretariat are not only necessary for the carrying out of our work, but also useful in making the activities of GATT known to the public at large. For these reasons, we consider that none of the items in the printing programme is to be deleted.

"As for the number of copies especially of the GATT documents, we wish to have at least the same number of copies as that presently distributed, in view of the increased demand for them by the various ministries concerned."
17. Malaya, Federation of - letter of 22 June 1963 (original: English)

"... in order to save cost, the publications mentioned under item B.8 and item C.12 of the Printing Programme should, in future, be distributed in cyclostyled form and not in the printed form as at present."

18. Netherlands - letter of 5 June 1963 (original: English)

"According to my Government's views the GATT publications mentioned in document L/1806 have great value as reference and working documents.

"For this reason the Netherlands Government would regret to see the suppression of one or more of the publications mentioned in the annex.

"Since it stands to reason that your secretariat is looking for ways and means to save on the mounting costs of printing and forwarding I might - in response to your question to this effect - offer the suggestion to economize by limiting the number of documents sent free of charge to contracting parties."

19. New Zealand - letter of 19 June 1963 (original: English)

"The publications contained in the Programme are considered to be generally useful for reference purposes and they constitute a useful source of information on the work of the GATT both for contracting parties and other interested bodies. It is felt however, that in view of the rising cost of printing, it may be worthwhile to reassess the value of continued publication of items 2, 5 and 7 in the Programme. As regards section C, and the question of special brochures, it is considered that the question of printing these should be decided on the merits of each particular case and that the number produced should be kept as low as possible."

20. Nigeria - letter of 17 June 1963 (original: English)

"... to say that the initial comment of my Government on the above subject is that all the publications listed in document L/1806 are useful and should continue to be published."


"I take this opportunity to draw your attention to the fact that, having regard particularly to new accessions, there seems to be an urgent need for reprinting Volumes I and I (Revised) of the Basic Instruments and Selected Documents, which have been out of print for a long time already."
22. Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Fed. of - letter of 22 June 1963 (original: English)

"... it is this Government's view that the only two items on which small savings might be made are item No. 5 'GATT - what it is (a popular information pamphlet)' and item No. 8 'Speeches by the Executive Secretary'.

"In respect of these items, it is suggested that a measure of saving might be achieved if, instead of being printed, they were duplicated."

23. South Africa, Republic of - letter of 27 June 1963 (original: English)

"... that the South African authorities are appreciative of the praiseworthy degree of efficiency which characterizes the GATT secretariat's handling of matters relating to the issue of publications and the distribution of documents. In consequence, the suggestions for improvement which can be made are necessarily of limited scope.

"Of the publications covered by the 1962 budget and listed in document L/1806, it is felt that the only item which could be considered for substantial reduction, if not deletion, is item No. 12 (Special Brochures). Bearing in mind that the brochure on the second and third reports of Committee II consists almost entirely of documents which have been distributed to contracting parties, and which have been published in 'Basic Instruments and Selected Documents', it might, depending on the sales volume of this publication, be advisable not to issue similar publications in the future. The Studies of the Development Plans of India and Pakistan also appear to be publications of a type which could justifiably be omitted in future. On the other hand, the Report of Committee II on the Consultation with the European Economic Community is regarded as a brochure of considerable value, the publication of which is amply justified by the widespread interest in the EEC's agricultural policy.

"The Reports of Committee II on consultations with individual contracting parties were published in their original roneoed form, with a printed cover. The value of such publications is limited by the fact that the original documents are, or should be, readily available to Government officials. It is realized, however, that the issue of such publications might be justified by sales to the Republic.

"Finally, the Working Group on the Review of Printing Costs and Related Matters might consider it worthwhile investigating the possibility of reducing printing costs by having publications printed in countries other than Switzerland."
A. Annual publications

We do not know either the number of copies printed or the distribution made of the publication 'Activities of GATT'. Since the printing costs are relatively high, we wonder whether a multi-copy edition would not suffice.

We consider that the 'Status of Multilateral Protocols' could be issued only once a year.

'GATT - What it is' is included in the list of annual publications. Since it already exists in printed form, we wonder why it has to be reprinted each year. It seems to us that a single edition would suffice to meet requests over a period of several years.

B. Publications which usually appear in the annual printing programme

The 'Studies of some aspects of international trade' are probably of interest to only a limited number of readers, and it therefore seems to us that a multi-copy edition, with a cover similar to that used for the compilation of ministerial speeches made at the November 1961 meeting, should suffice.

One may also wonder whether the distribution, which is extremely helpful to us, of speeches made by you could not be in the form of multi-copy texts rather than printed pamphlets.

C. Distribution free of charge

As regards the distribution of printed publications free of charge, it seems to us that this could be limited to a small number, for example, six copies per delegation, additional copies being available at cost price.

Another solution would be for distribution to the various delegations to be proportionate to their contributions.
25. **Tanganyika - letter of 29 May 1963 (original: English)**

"We feel that it may well be that the Working Group may draw conclusions not necessarily based on the replies received. It appears that the terms of reference of the Group cover a sufficiently wide field, and in this connexion it would be interesting to know if the secretariat before it distributes the various publications and documents periodically investigates regarding the number of essential copies each contracting party would require. It might be necessary to base distribution of documents to contracting parties on considerations having nothing to do with mere membership of the GATT."

26. **United Kingdom - letter of 29 August 1962 (original: English)**

"Items A1, A3, A5, B6, C9, C10, C11 and C13

We have no comments on these items which refer to publications which we consider are essential.

"Item A2: Activities of GATT 1961/62

This pamphlet is useful but not indispensable, and it might be possible to effect a saving by publishing a limited number of copies for sale with the free distribution limited to one or two copies to each contracting party.

"Item A4: International Trade 1961

This book contains interesting information but it is suggested that a saving on similar lines to those suggested for item A2 could be made.

"Items B7 and B8

If sales of these two publications cover the cost of production, there seems no reason for discontinuing either. We consider, however, that neither should be published at a loss.

"Item C12

This publication is useful but, as suggested for item A2 a more limited distribution would probably be quite adequate."
27. United States - letter of 26 July 1962 (original: English)

"1. The publications listed serve the purposes of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to good advantage and should be continued.

»2. The usefulness of the following publications would be enhanced through the addition of Spanish language versions:

(a) Annual Report on International Trade

(b) Trade Intelligence Paper

(c) Speeches of the Executive Secretary

"3. The latest Trade Intelligence Paper on file is No. 6 of December 1957. The provision of funds for this publication in the 1963 budget may be questioned, unless there are reasonably firm plans to reactivate the Papers next year. The Department does not, however, question the worth of the Papers, which have been well received in the past, particularly No. 6 dealing with the Common Market."

28. Uruguay - letter of 16 July 1962 (original: English)

"With reference to the contents of the final paragraph of document L/1806, I would like to recall to your notice the debate held in the course of the nineteenth session concerning the Uruguayan suggestion that a new form and content should be given to the secretariat's bi-yearly report on developments in the field of commercial policy."


"... the responsible Yugoslav authorities greatly appreciate the documents published by the GATT secretariat which are very useful since they make it possible to follow the work of GATT and trends in international trade. This being the case, it is difficult for them to state whether publication of any of the documents listed in document L/1806 should cease. On the other hand, the Yugoslav authorities consider that GATT should add additional studies to the list, for example a comparative study of customs policies throughout the world, etc."