NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT

1. The following data have been assembled by the secretariat and have been put before the Technical Sub-Committee. They are herewith transmitted to the Committee on Agriculture.

(i) Data on trade flows and trade measures on selected agricultural products (document Spec(64)58 of 1 April 1964). In this document various data are assembled on the value of imports and exports of the countries, members of the Committee (with the exclusion of Madagascar), and on trade measures applied.

(ii) Data on trade flows and trade measures on selected agricultural products (document Spec(64)79 of 10 April 1964). This document is a revised and somewhat elaborated version of the first table, but refers only to the EEC, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

(iii) Three tables which summarize the above data and provide for each of the countries or regions examined, estimates of the value of imports affected by tariff and/or non-tariff measures (document Spec(64)80).

2. It should be noted that the documents do not pretend to give a complete and fully accurate picture of the volume and conditions of trade in the products examined. This would have required considerably more time than the Sub-Committee had at its disposal. Attention may therefore be drawn to a number of difficulties which were met.

3. In addition to the commodities which were not referred to the Sub-Committee, such as tropical products and products connected with the work of the special commodity groups, the above tables do not include data on certain products which prima facie are of less importance to agricultural trade as a whole and on which information is not readily available. While this should not appreciably change the overall picture it is realized that some of these products may be of importance to individual countries.
4. The statistical data relate to the value of imports from all origins and exports to all destinations. In the case of the individual member countries of the EEC it has not been possible to insulate trade with third countries only.

5. Although it would have been desirable to cover a longer period the data relate to one year only.

6. It should be noted that for the countries for which the tariff and trade statistics are not classified according to the Brussels Nomenclature difficulties of conversion were encountered which unavoidably involved certain arbitrary decisions. These difficulties and some further deficiencies regarding the valuation of imports and exports are elaborated in paragraph 5 of documents Spec(64)58 and Spec(64)79.

7. The data on tariffs and non-tariff measures are based on the most recent data available to the secretariat. While these data will be corrected by the delegation in due course and while revised tables may eventually be prepared, the time available was not sufficient to provide fully accurate data.

8. The Tables I and II in document Spec(64)80 are derived from the data in Spec(64)79. Wherever a measure was applicable to part of the tariff item only (denoted by a symbol in small letters) it has been attempted to identify the product in the national trade returns of the country concerned. Where trade statistics were not sufficiently detailed the best possible estimates have been made to evaluate the trade affected by the measure concerned.

9. It has not been attempted to evaluate the degree of restrictiveness of various measures affecting imports. In particular where such measures are highly restrictive or applied to certain countries or during certain periods only, the figure of trade affected is much distorted.

10. The tables in document Spec(64)80 relate to imports only. The time available did not allow for similar calculations concerning exports.

11. In Table I in document Spec(64)80 the column of EEC trade takes only account of the Common External Tariff and of measures such as already have been established under the Common Agricultural Policy regulations. The present situation in the individual member countries is given in Table II.

12. Table III of document Spec(64)80 is essentially based on the data provided in Spec(64)58. In the calculation some further data were taken into account. The import values estimated as affected by tariffs only refer to the tariff headings where no other non-tariff measures had been reported or found. Where only part of the heading was affected by non-tariff measures it has not been found possible in the time available to insulate this part in the national trade statistics and give a proper estimate.