1. In the Resolution adopted on 21 May 1963, the Ministers gave directives with a view to the formulation of the rules to govern, and the methods to be employed in, the creation of acceptable conditions of access to world markets for agricultural products in furtherance of a significant development and expansion of world trade in such products. The Ministers considered that in the case of meat, general arrangements might be required and they instructed the Group on Meat to negotiate appropriate arrangements.

2. The Group has held three meetings, from 1 to 5 July 1963, on 26 November 1963, and from 9 to April 1964. Before it were documents presented by the Governments of Argentina (Spec(63)206), Australia (Spec(63)197 and Spec(64)76), the United States (Spec(63)305), New Zealand (Spec(63)203 and Spec(64)78), the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland (Spec(63)285) and the United Kingdom (Spec(63)190).

Objectives

3. The exporting countries declared that arrangements which would not result in a significant expansion of world trade in meat would not satisfy the objective of the Kennedy Round. Furthermore, they pointed out that since the negotiations constituted a whole, there need not necessarily be a balance of advantages between the participating countries and for each of them within the meat arrangements.
4. Many countries emphasized that there were several markets for meat with characteristics so different that it would be difficult to establish a uniform set of criteria for the development of international trade in that product. In their view, the Group should examine the particular situation of each import market and each type of meat, with a view to identifying the elements suitable for negotiation and to co-ordinating, where appropriate, the different arrangements between them. The representative of the EEC stated that, in accordance with the Ministerial Resolution, the Community intended to make all agricultural products subject to the same negotiating rules and that it was a matter of priority to determine those rules. With respect to the balance of obligations regarding trade in meat, the Community would wish to see such balance over the whole agricultural sector.

5. The Group has considered in the first instance meats of cattle and sheep; at an early date the Group intends to recommend a more precise definition of the products which it believes should come within its cover. In the light of these discussions, the Group has identified and agreed upon the elements which should enter into the negotiations (TN.64/Me/3).

**Agricultural policies and access**

6. In accordance with the ministerial directive, the Group has directed its attention primarily to the means of achieving the objective of acceptable conditions of access. The Group was unanimous in recognizing that questions relating to national production policies and to market access were closely related and therefore the negotiations should cover all elements of the question as thus defined.

7. While there was agreement on the broad objectives, it was recognized by the Group that the nature of the trade and the measures of protection and/or support varied significantly from market to market; and that the precise nature of the commitments undertaken may well have to vary from country to country. There is an agreement that the Group seek harmonization of the ends to be achieved while allowing a measure of flexibility as to the means to be adopted in each country for the achievement of these agreed ends. In the view of some members of the Group the objective is in respect to those countries which support their domestic industry to adjust existing levels of support over the whole range of internal support measures affecting trade in order to restrain
production. No attempt has yet been made to determine the precise nature of the commitments which would be undertaken by countries operating such measures. It is accepted, however, that the effectiveness of these commitments might be judged by the resulting level of production. The representative of the EEC expressed the view that the various protective measures in the agricultural sector were indissociable and that the fundamental element of the negotiations lay in the negotiation and binding of the support margin.

8. There is a broad measure of agreement that achievement of the objective of the arrangement will require importing countries to undertake commitments which assure efficient exporting countries access to markets on predictable terms and in meaningful quantities. Such commitments should include the opportunity to share in the growth of consumption.

9. There is a broad measure of agreement on the opinion that frontier barriers to trade of meat importing countries should be open to negotiation. As in the case of internal support measures, the nature and significance of these barriers varies from country to country, and again a pragmatic approach will be necessary.

10. The United Kingdom and the United States representatives stated that their Governments had concluded bilateral agreements with suppliers which would be suitable for incorporation in a world agreement.

11. The EEC representative stated that, in his view, the support margin adequately defined possibilities for access to markets.

International prices

12. It is the general view that the arrangements which emerge from the work of the Group should aim at ensuring stable and remunerative prices for efficient producers whilst being fair to the consumer. The representative of the Community emphasized the importance of the reference price as a stabilizing factor and expressed the view that in negotiating that price, account would have to be taken of the peculiar features of the meat market. Some delegations pointed out that practical difficulties would arise in determining minimum prices for meat entering into international trade.
Assurances of supply

13. For their part, exporters have expressed, in relation to the access commitments undertaken by importing countries, their willingness to consider undertakings in regard to assurances of supply as part of an acceptable arrangement.

Market development

14. While all members of the Group recognized the need to develop new markets as rapidly as possible, they recognized the possibilities in this field as being in most instances of a rather long-term character.

Future procedures

15. It has been proposed that the Group might best proceed by examining each of the products within its terms of reference with a view to negotiating specific arrangements incorporating the elements listed above.

16. In order to carry out this work it will be necessary for the Group to have additional information in regard to conditions in a number of markets. In particular, the Group has noted that the European Economic Community will be submitting for examination by the CONTRACTING PARTIES its regulations on beef and veal. The Group was of the view that an examination of these regulations jointly with Committee II at an early date would be of considerable assistance to the Group in its further work. In addition, the Group has asked the secretariat to prepare an analysis of existing support measures and barriers to trade in the various meat importing countries.