AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATIONS

I. First alternative

1. The objective is as established by the Ministers in May 1963, that is to say 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.

2. For cereals and meat the negotiations already initiated in the Groups shall be actively pursued, and similar negotiations begun on dairy products on the basis of the elements defined by the Pilot Group.

3. Other agricultural products shall be divided into two principal categories:

   (a) those where the bulk of the trade is conducted over fixed tariffs. The objective shall be sought through the reduction and binding of the rates of duty, which represent for these products the level of support afforded to domestic production. When in some countries non-tariff barriers are applied in addition to custom duties, the negotiations should aim at a reduction and binding of the level of protection or support afforded by the application of these measures;

   (b) products where the bulk of trade is subject to non-tariff barriers or a combination of tariffs and non-tariff barriers. The negotiations shall be directed to the reduction and binding of the level of support or protection afforded to domestic production;
(c) every endeavour shall be made in the course of the negotiations to bring about the elimination of restrictions which are inconsistent with the provisions of the General Agreement;

(d) with respect to both categories negotiations may also include commitments by exporting countries regarding policies and measures which affect the conditions of international trade in such products.

4. The Committee on Agriculture shall forthwith formulate procedures for the negotiations referred to in the preceding paragraphs.

II. Second alternative

1. The objective is as established by the Ministers in May 1963, that is to say 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.

2. For cereals and meat the negotiations already initiated in the Groups shall be actively pursued, and similar negotiations begun on dairy products on the basis of the elements defined by the Pilot Group.

3. Having regard to the variety of products and conditions of trading in these products, the Committee was not able to make recommendations regarding agreed rules and methods to be applied generally to these products. It is, therefore, agreed that negotiations on these products shall be on a pragmatic basis that is to say:

(a) each country shall formulate offers appropriate to the nature of the protective or support measures maintained by it for particular products or group of products. Such offers are to be tabled on 10 September 1964 concurrently with the tabling of the exceptions lists;
(b) offers are to be made in respect of all products with the exception of products which are included in the exceptions lists which will be subject to confrontation and justification on the basis of agreed criteria;

(c) thereafter, negotiations shall proceed on the basis of such offers between the country tabling any particular offer and the country or countries which are the principal supplier or have a substantial interest in the trade;

(d) the Committee on Agriculture shall supervise and facilitate the negotiations with a view to ensuring the fullest possible multilateral effort to achieve the agreed objectives. Accordingly the results of the individual negotiations shall be reported to the Committee on Agriculture;

(e) the results of the negotiations shall ultimately be generalized to all contracting parties in accordance with standing GATT practices.