1. The general discussion on the problems of interest to developing countries made in this meeting should in no way be considered closed. We shall resume the discussion at the next meeting of the Committee and it is understood that in our future work special attention will always be given to the problems of interest to developing countries. I am also convinced that the Committee will take due account in its future work programme of the suggestions made in the course of the present discussion. It appears, however, that it is not possible for us to take a concrete decision today on these problems. The secretariat will circulate a résumé of this general discussion on the problems of non-tariff and para-tariff barriers affecting developing countries. This meeting has also permitted preliminary discussion of certain notifications made by developing countries and the information supplied in this regard will naturally be incorporated in the note of the secretariat on the examination of the inventory.

2. In their statements the representatives of developing countries have stressed the importance and urgency of trade problems of developing countries and the damaging effects of trade barriers, both tariff and non-tariff, on their efforts to expand exports to the markets of developed countries. In this context they have referred to specific types of trade barriers as being particularly obnoxious from the point of view of developing countries. These include (apart from differential duties which run counter to the interest of developing countries which desire to develop processing and manufacturing industries) such measures as import quotas and discriminatory restrictions, export restraints imposed on developing countries, special trading arrangements between particular groups of developed and developing countries, subsidies on production which encourage uneconomic production in developed countries, internal taxes on products which are not produced in the developed countries, arbitrary methods of customs valuation and State monopolies, particularly of trade in tobacco. It has also been suggested by one delegation that government assistance to industries which might not have been established without such assistance could have the effect of distorting the natural pattern of world production and of causing potential damage to developing countries having the requisite natural resources.
3. The representatives of some developing countries have recalled that at the twenty-fifth session the CONTRACTING PARTIES decided that the Committee on Industrial Products, in exploring the possibilities for concrete action in the field of non-tariff barriers, should give special attention to the particular problems of developing countries. In the light of this they have put forward a number of suggestions. For example, the delegate of Yugoslavia has proposed: (a) that priority consideration should be given to the removal of non-tariff barriers which discriminate against developing countries; (b) that early attention should be given to the elimination of trade barriers which are inconsistent with GATT; (c) where there is genuine difficulty in removing a trade barrier on a global basis, consideration should be given to the possibility of freeing imports of developing country origin; and (d) any new trade barriers introduced by developed countries should not be applied to imports from developing countries. The representative of India has proposed: (a) that in any further examination or arrangements made for seeking solutions, the problems relating to the evaluation or assessment of duty should be taken up on a priority basis; and (b) that the operation of State monopolies particularly regarding tobacco and purchasing policy of monopolies should also be given early consideration.

4. The Committee has also heard statements from most of the developed countries present, in which comments are offered on the various observations and specific points made by developing countries. There is a general consensus among them that the Committee should at every stage of its work bear foremost in mind the interest of developing countries and the urgency of their trade problems. Most of the trade barriers however, affect imports from all sources, and it might not always be feasible separately to deal with aspects of the barriers which relate to exports of developing countries. The problems of non-tariff barriers, in their view, will have to be dealt with through a "global approach". Some of them have stressed the importance of careful preparation for the next stage of the Committee's work. The Committee has been instructed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES to move rapidly from the stage of study and of identification of problems to that of seeking mutually acceptable solutions, and will no doubt make every effort to advance its work. There seems to be general agreement that whatever scheme for action might be formulated by the Committee should fully reflect the sense of urgency with regard to the trade problems of developing countries. The views that these countries have so far expressed and that they might hereafter put forward in the course of the examination of the inventory will undoubtedly be fully taken into account.

5. There is also a general feeling that the next stage of the Committee's work could be properly advanced only with the full collaboration of the developing countries themselves. The developing countries which have not done so should endeavour to supply the Committee with notifications of trade barriers affecting their exports to permit the secretariat to complete document Spec(69)81, containing the notifications on problems of particular interest to developing countries. It will be desirable if supplementary notifications reach the secretariat before 25 July. It would also be essential for their representatives fully to take part in the deliberations of the Committee. In so far as possible the secretariat and the developed countries should also provide assistance in the gathering and clarification of information on trade barriers affecting the exports of developing countries.
6. In the course of discussion reference has also been made to barriers in the tariff field, especially duties which differentiate between products in their primary and processed forms. On the suggestion of the Chilean representative the Committee has agreed that governments should be requested to furnish comments on the preliminary study which the secretariat made a year ago on the tariffs on copper and copper products (COM.TD/W/74). The secretariat should in the light of the comments received attempt a more complete and comprehensive study for examination in the appropriate organ of GATT. When completed this study will evidently form a useful part of the documentation for the Committee in considering action in the tariff field.

Note: Certain comments and points were made by representatives after the Chairman’s summing up. These will be summarized in a note on the proceedings of the meetings which is being prepared by the secretariat for circulation at a later stage.