Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to transmit for consideration and adoption by the Council the Report which the Agriculture Committee approved at its meeting on 20-21 September 1972 (COM.AG/W/88).

1. This report forwards a survey of techniques and modalities for dealing with the principal problems of trade in agricultural commodities. While the survey commits no member of the Committee, it should provide a useful basis for further progress.

2. This report reflects the importance which the Committee feels should be attached to solving the specific problems of developing countries. The question of the implications for these countries of certain techniques and modalities was taken up at their request by the secretariat in a preliminary paper (document COM.AG/W/86). The hope was expressed that the examination of this problem would be further pursued and supplemented as work progresses.

3. Some delegations suggested that pilot studies, referred to in paragraph 8 of the Report COM.AG/W/88, might be undertaken.

4. The Committee expressed the opinion that the opportunity should be taken of obtaining from the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their forthcoming session guidelines for the future multilateral negotiations in order to facilitate its further work, which would be taken up again immediately after the session.

The Chairman of the Agriculture Committee