Subject discussed: Advancement of negotiations of less-developed countries with respect to 31 October closing date

The Chairman recalled his remark at the foregoing meeting of the Tariff Negotiations Committee that few less-developed countries were taking part in the negotiations. This was regrettable as it was very important that the barriers to the exports of these countries should be removed to the greatest extent possible. It appeared from document TN.60/W.25, which had recently been circulated, that the participation of the less-developed countries was still quite limited. He questioned whether the limited participation was due to procedural difficulties.

The representative of Nigeria said that in accordance with the suggestions made at the foregoing meeting his delegation had held exploratory talks with: Canada, Czechoslovakia, EEC, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States. These talks had proved very useful and had particularly been revealing in respect of the degree of reciprocity that the industrialized countries were going to request from less-developed countries which was a question of great importance to his country. He hoped that the problems connected with reciprocity would be solved without the intervention of the Tariff Negotiations Committee.

He gave the following details about the state of the exploratory talks his delegation was conducting:

Canada: Some difficulties had emerged which were, however, due to earlier commitments, undertaken by Canada rather than to differences of opinion in respect of the reciprocity demanded.

Czechoslovakia: His delegation had received an offers list. No special difficulties were foreseen, but it had not yet been possible to ascertain the extent of Czechoslovakia's demand.
EEC: The delegation of the Commission still maintained that they would not request full reciprocity from less-developed countries. Some difficulties had, however, arisen as regards the associated overseas territories. Further consultations in Brussels were necessary on the part of the Commission and it was clear that it would not be possible to conclude the negotiations by 31 October.

India: No discussions had yet taken place.

Norway: The Norwegian delegation had referred the Nigerian proposals to Oslo for consideration.

Spain: The Nigerian delegation was awaiting the arrival of the Spanish delegation.

Sweden: Sweden required certain counter concessions from Nigeria and had presented a comprehensive request list. The Nigerian delegation was studying the extent to which it was possible to comply with the Swedish requests.

Switzerland: No formal stand had yet been taken in respect of the amount of counter concessions to be required by Switzerland.

United Kingdom: Nigerian products already enjoyed special treatment in the United Kingdom. The only Nigerian exports for which there existed some difficulties were some kinds of timber.

United States: No requests had been made by either party. There were on the whole no barriers - or small ones - in the United States to imports of tropical products. Discussions had consequently concerned bindings at the existing level rather than tariff reductions. In this respect, however, it so far seemed that the major items of interest to Nigeria were not in the published list.

The representative of India recalled that India had sent requests lists to Australia, Denmark, EEC, Finland, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United States. His delegation recently had had preliminary discussions with all these countries. Negotiations had been initiated with the United States and he hoped that offers lists would shortly be exchanged with Norway and Sweden. He did not want, in this connexion, to comment on the question of reciprocity but said that in the negotiations with the United States, they were trying to reach agreement on the meaning of reciprocity in tariff negotiations between an industrialized country like the United States of America and a less-developed country like India. He further mentioned that the delegation of the Commission of the EEC had told his delegation a month earlier that the beginning of negotiations between India and the EEC must await the results of negotiations between the EEC and some industrialized countries. The EEC delegation had also stated that in regard to agricultural and tropical commodities as well as commodities in List G of interest to India, it was awaiting instructions from the Commission. Since then no step forward had been taken which was regrettable in view of the possibility of negotiations terminating by 31 October. He stressed that it
was important that the Commission should offer meaningful concessions to countries like India which had concluded negotiations under Article XXIV:6 in the expectation that the EEC would give concessions without insisting on reciprocity in the Dillon round.

The representative of Uruguay said that his delegation had circulated its consolidated lists of offers the day before. He pointed out that the main concern of Uruguay was to obtain concessions in respect of meat and wool which were by far its most important export products.

Uruguay wanted to negotiate with Austria, EEC, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. In the case of Austria a reply from Vienna was awaited. From the EEC Uruguay wanted concessions on the same items in respect of which it had made reservations in the results of the negotiations under Article XXIV:6. No reply had yet been received from the delegation of the Commission. He wanted to repeat that Uruguay could not conclude Dillon negotiations with the EEC unless the reason for their Article XXIV:6 reservations had been removed. To Spain the Uruguayan Delegation had indicated that it was prepared to negotiate only on products which were not subject to non-tariff barriers. This was in accordance with their general view and applied to all countries. As far as Sweden and Switzerland were concerned, the basis for negotiations was still under study. The United Kingdom had replied to a Uruguayan request on meat that Uruguay was not the principal supplier. His delegation nonetheless maintained their request for a reduction of preferences on meat. In the case of the United States there seemed to be little hope that the Uruguayan wishes would be met.

The Chairman commented on the paucity of requests and generally scant participation of less-developed countries but added that the general problem of the promotion of trade of the less-developed countries was a matter for consideration by Committee III rather than the Tariff Negotiations Committee.

There being no further remarks on this point, the Committee resolved itself into Executive Session.