INTERIM CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE
FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS

Nomination of Chairman

(Note by the Executive Secretary)

1. The Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements (ICCICA) was established by the Economic and Social Council Resolution 30(IV) of 28 March 1947 and was given the task of keeping itself informed of, and facilitating, inter-governmental consultation or action on commodity problems.

2. When the Economic and Social Council decided in 1954 to constitute the Commission on International Commodity Trade the responsibilities of ICCICA were reduced. The relevant Resolution of the Economic and Social Council (Resolution 557 F(XVIII) of 5 August 1954) provided that ICCICA should, for the present, continue to discharge its functions of convening inter-governmental study groups, of making recommendations to the Secretary-General on the convening of commodity conferences, and of co-ordinating the activities of the individual study groups and councils. The Commission on International Commodity Trade assumed all other responsibilities hitherto discharged by ICCICA.

3. ICCICA consists of three members in addition to the Chairman. One of these is nominated by the Food and Agriculture Organization and is concerned in particular with agricultural commodities. The second is concerned in particular with non-agricultural commodities while the third has wide experience in the problems confronting countries undergoing development whose economies are primarily dependent on the production and international marketing of primary commodities.

4. In terms of Resolution 373 (XIII) of 13 September 1951 of the Economic and Social Council the Chairman of ICCICA is nominated annually by the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the General Agreement. On 10 October 1953 the CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed on the following criteria which should apply in the selection of their nominee:

"The Chairman of ICCICA nominated by the CONTRACTING PARTIES should be a person who has wide knowledge of commodity policy, of the General Agreement and of the problems of producer countries and of the trade in commodities."
5. At their twelfth session in November 1957, the CONTRACTING PARTIES considered a proposal made by ICCICA and submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES by the Secretary-General of the United Nations that, in future, the Chairman of ICCICA should be appointed for a period of three years so as to ensure continuity of approach by the Committee. While recognizing the value and importance of continuity the CONTRACTING PARTIES felt that, as ICCICA was a body of a temporary character, it would not be appropriate to make nominations for periods of three years. However, having regard to the principle of continuity, the CONTRACTING PARTIES decided to nominate Sir Edwin McCarthy of Australia, who had been their nominee for the previous year, as Chairman of ICCICA for a further period of one year. At the thirteenth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in November 1958 Sir Edwin McCarthy was renominated for a third year of office. It is understood that the present Chairman would not be available for renomination.

6. The nomination of the Chairman of ICCICA on the expiry of the present term of office appears as an item on the agenda for the fifteenth session. It is felt that, as in the past two years, contracting parties will wish this matter to be discussed initially at a meeting of heads of delegations.