The Committee considered the amendment of the United Kingdom to Article 99.

The representative of the United Kingdom stated that the position of separate customs territories "possessing full autonomy in the conduct of their external commercial relations and of the other matters provided for by the Charter" was not affected by the proposed amendment.

Of the territories for which the United Kingdom has international responsibility nearly fifty were separate customs territories within the meaning of Article 92. The United Kingdom would prefer that those dependent territories were entirely free to make the choice of whether or not they entered the Organization.

Perhaps in the case of a very few of those territories it might prove impossible to persuade them that it would be to their advantage to enter the Organization and the idea of forcing something on Colonial Governments was repugnant to his Government.

The United Kingdom was firmly of the opinion that if entry were permissive there was every reason for expecting that no Colony would elect to stay out.

The representative of France fully supported the statement of the representative of the United Kingdom, though at the present no separate customs territories existed in the French empire, in the future, however, some dispositions of the colonial system might be revised.

The representative of the United States said that it should be clarified in the report of the Sub-Committee that as a result of this technique, no presumption could be drawn that such dependent territories would be autonomous or quasi-autonomous in the conduct of their commercial relations.
commercial relations and of the other matters provided for by the Charter, and thus qualify to become Members under Article 68.

The representative of the United Kingdom did not believe that any suspicion could arise that those territories might be autonomous in the conduct of their international trade relations.

On a question of the representative of China, the representative of the United Kingdom clarified that that provision would in no way affect rights and obligations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Article XXVI of the General Agreement would in no case be substituted by Article 99 of the Charter because it is not in Part II of that Agreement.

The representative of the United States suggested the necessity for a consequential textual amendment of paragraph 3 of Article 68, and proposed that a small working party should consider this point.

The CHAIRMAN appointed a working group composed of delegates of Australia, United Kingdom and United States.