The Secretariat is giving attention to the arrangements which have to be made in anticipation of the formal conclusion of the tariff negotiations.

Delegations may wish to take into account the following information and suggestions.

1. **Credentials**

   The credentials accrediting Delegations to the Second Session were duly considered some time ago and found satisfactory by the Preparatory Committee. They are therefore adequate for the purpose of signing the Final Act.

   However, few Delegations have yet submitted the necessary credentials for the signature of the General Agreement and accompanying Protocols. These credentials might take the form of letters signed by Foreign Ministers. As it is expected that the Session will finish at the end of September or beginning of October, Delegations which feel they may sign the Agreement and accompanying Protocols at Geneva are urged to secure immediately the required credentials so that unnecessary and costly delays may be avoided at the last moment.

2. **Seals**

   In view of the probability that few representatives have personal seals, and as sealing is falling into disuse, it is
suggested that seals not be affixed to the General Agreement. The Legal Officer has pointed out, for example, that sealing was not used when the Constitution of the World Health Organization was signed.

3. **Languages**

It is proposed that two copies of the General Agreement be signed - one in English and one in French. These two official copies will be deposited and registered with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

As far as possible, it would be desirable for Delegations to establish an authentic English and French text of the Schedules, in the same way as the general provisions of the Agreement will be authentic in both languages. Nevertheless, some Delegations may not feel able to follow this procedure. In such cases, it is suggested that they determine which of the two languages they wish to use for the authentic text, so that both copies of the Schedule may be marked "(authentic only in the English/French text).

The translation of the lists of concessions exchanged in bilateral negotiations has been initiated by the Translating Section. It is expected that this work will be terminated about 10 September. Delegations which are able to do so are urged to translate their own Schedules into English and French as the work is placing a heavy burden on the translating services available in Geneva, in spite of the fact that two translators from the Brussels Tariff Bureau have now joined them.

The Translating Section is checking its translations of the lists against the lists of final concessions granted in bilateral negotiations, which are being forwarded to the Secretariat in accordance with the procedure established in
The Translating Section will now begin consulting all Delegations on the translations and making any adjustments that are necessary. When any Delegation has completed the bilateral stage of all its negotiations, the Translating Section will submit the corresponding translation (when it has not been done by the Delegation itself) and then there should be little delay in preparing the definitive Schedule in English and French.

4. Method of Reproduction

It is proposed that copies of the General Agreement with Schedules, Protocols, and the Final Act to be produced at the time of signature of the Final Act, should be mimeographed. After an investigation by the Secretariat of the facilities available for typing, photo-offsetting, and printing, and of the time required for the various processes, it has become apparent that the only practical method of reproduction is mimeographing. If any process other than mimeographing were to be employed, it would not be possible for Delegations to have their own copies of the entire document for examination before signature and it would not be possible to provide Delegations with copies to take back to their Governments until some five weeks after signature. In these circumstances, the Secretariat is endeavouring to make satisfactory arrangements for the mimeographing of copies for the following purposes:

(a) An adequate number of copies on ordinary good quality paper; these copies to be available for distribution to Delegations shortly prior to the signature and for transmittal by Delegations to their Governments;
(b) One copy in English and one in French from the same stencils as those above on good quality Treaty paper to be used for signature and subsequently to be deposited as the official copies. Delegations should indicate as soon as possible the number of copies of the sort referred to in (a) above that they will require. Consideration of security should be kept in mind in determining the number of copies to be requested.

Since the production of a document of the size and complexity of the General Agreement would require considerable time if the stencil-cutting were to be done only by the Secretariat, Delegations are asked to undertake responsibility for cutting the stencils of their own Schedules to the maximum extent possible, and, where the actual cutting of the stencils is not possible, to undertake responsibility for checking the accuracy of any stencils cut for them by the Secretariat. The common form of the Schedules will, of course, be determined by the Tariff Agreement Committee. To secure maximum uniformity in the appearance of the several Schedules the Secretariat is arranging, where necessary, to provide identical typewriters and stencils to Delegations. For planning purposes Delegations are requested to advise the Secretariat as soon as possible on the following points:

(a) Whether they will be able to cut the stencils of their own Schedules;
(b) Whether they will be able to cut such stencils in both languages;
(c) With what size of type the typewriters available for their own use in such stencil cutting are equipped;
(d) Whether such typewriters are adapted to French or English.

The above arrangements relate to the production of copies required in the near future. At a later date, some time after the deposit of the official copies the Secretary-General of the United Nations will, of course, forward certified copies to the Governments concerned. The Secretariat would be greatly assisted in making its plans for that later stage if Delegations could indicate how many additional printed or photo-offset copies their Governments will then require.

5. General Timetable

It is expected that there will be a short interval at the close of the bilateral stage of the negotiations, which may vary from one Delegation to another, during which:

(a) Delegations will consult their Governments on the Schedules and obtain final authorization for the signature of the Final Act and, in some cases, the General Agreement and Protocol as well;

(b) tariff experts will check the tariff Schedules;

(c) the translations of the Schedules will be completed and checked;

(d) the stencils of the general provisions, the tariff Schedules, the Final Act and Protocols will be cut, checked and run off in their final form and distributed to Delegations.

At the end of this interval, when the documents are all in order, signature will take place.