At a meeting held yesterday, the Charter Steering Committee reviewed the progress of the Charter discussions and arrived at the conclusion that unless there is an acceleration in the work of the sub-committees, it will prove impossible to complete the work by 31 July, in accordance with the decision of Heads of Delegations, and that at the present rate of progress the agreed date would be seriously exceeded.

In these circumstances, the Committee submits the following proposals for consideration by Heads of Delegations:

(a) Target dates should be established for the completion of the work of each sub-committee. For this purpose, the Committee recommends the attached schedule of sub-committee meetings. It is proposed that sub-committees be requested to complete their discussions within the limits of time provided in the schedule.

(b) In order to make the maximum use of the time available, sub-committees should meet promptly at the scheduled times. Moreover, the Committee feels that full advantage should be taken of the time available for afternoon meetings and therefore suggests that afternoon meetings should be held in two parts with a half-hour break. It is suggested that afternoon meetings should be from 3.30 to 4.30 p.m. and 5.00 to 7.00 or 7.30 p.m.

(c) The Charter Steering Committee considers that the work of sub-committees is proceeding slowly because of some misunderstanding as to the role of the sub-committees. The function of the sub-committees is to prepare texts for submission to the Preparatory Committee and to reconcile different points of views expressed in the Preparatory Committee, which, from the discussion, it appears are capable of reconciliation.

If, therefore, there are points of views which are clearly irreconcilable in that they involve fundamental differences of view, sub-committees should prepare texts to cover the majority view, leaving it open to members to dissent, if necessary, from the sub-committee report. Any such member will then have the opportunity to decide whether to enter a formal reservation or withdraw its dissent when the report is discussed in Plenary Session.

(d) The work of some sub-committees has also been slowed by the extensive participation of delegations not appointed to the sub-committees. This defeats the purpose of establishing small sub-committees. It is, of course, clear that any
delegation which has a substantial interest in the work of a sub-committee should have the right to present its views; this, however, is different from the right to participate in all aspects of the debates. It is therefore suggested that sub-committee chairmen should be instructed to adopt a stricter procedure. Non-members of sub-committees should be asked to indicate the substantial points on which they wish to express views, and to submit their statements either in writing or orally by pre-arrangement with the Chairman.

(e) The Chairmen of sub-committees could also assist by imposing some limitation on the debates, as for example, by the avoidance of mere repetition of arguments already fully developed at the Commission stage. Delegates could also assist by exercising a certain restraint in the discussions.

(f) The Charter Steering Committee recommends that the Conference should recess for three days, namely 25, 26 and 27 July. This recess is intended to afford delegations a respite from the pressure of extended discussions over the last two months. It is hoped that delegations will take this opportunity to make a complete break in their work in order thereafter more effectively to dispose of the heavy Agenda of the closing stages of the Session.
FUTURE PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

Friday, July 18th

Legal Drafting Committee 8.30
Sub-committee on Article 33 10.30
Sub-committee on Articles 34, 35, 38 10.30
Sub-committee on Article 36 10.30
Sub-committee on Chapters I, II, VIII 10.15
Sub-committee on Articles 26, 28, 29 2.30
Commission B (Voting & Exec. Board) 2.30
Consultative Committee (ICC) 4.30

Saturday, July 19th

Sub-committee on Chapters I, II, VIII 10.15
Sub-committee on Articles 34, 35, 38 10.30
Sub-committee on Articles 26, 28, 29 10.30

Monday, July 21st

Sub-committee on Articles 25 and 27 10.30
Sub-committee on Article 33 10.30
Sub-committee on Articles 26, 28, 29 2.30
Sub-committee on Articles 34, 35, 38 2.30
Sub-committee on Chapters I, II, VIII 2.30

Tuesday, July 22nd

Sub-committee on Articles 31 and 32 10.30
Sub-committee on Articles 34, 35, 38 10.30
Sub-committee on Articles 14, 15, 24 2.30
Sub-committee on Chapters I, II, VIII 2.30

Wednesday, July 23rd

Sub-committee on Articles 34, 35, 38 10.30
Sub-committee on Article 36 10.30
Sub-committee on Chapters I, II, VIII 2.30
Sub-committee on Articles 26, 28, 29 2.30
Sub-committee on Articles 34, 35, 38 2.30

Thursday, July 24th

Sub-committee on Articles 25 and 27 10.30
Sub-committee on Articles 31 and 32 10.30
Sub-committee on Chapter IV 10.30
Sub-committee on Articles 34, 35, 38 2.30
Sub-committee on Chapters I, II, VIII 2.30

Friday, July 25th

Saturday, July 26th  Recess

Sunday, July 27th  

E/PC/T/DEL/54
Monday, July 28th

Sub-committee on Article 36 10.30
Sub-committee on Chapter IV 10.30
Sub-committee on Chapters I, II, VIII 2.30

Tuesday, July 29th

Sub-committee on Chapter IV 10.30
Sub-committee on Chapters I, II, VIII 2.30

Tuesday, July 29th

Sub-committee on Chapter IV 10.30
Sub-committee on Chapters I, II, VIII 2.30

Wednesday, July 30th

Sub-committee on Chapter IV 10.30
Sub-committee on Chapters I, II, VIII 2.30

Thursday, July 31st

Sub-committee on Chapter IV 10.30
Sub-committee on Chapters I, II, VIII 2.30