

31 October 1958

Trade News Bulletin

Note by the Chairman of the Budget Working Party

The Budget Working Party has been asked by the Executive Secretary to examine the usefulness to Member Governments of the Trade News Bulletin in relation to its "production costs" both in time and money.

In order to enable the Budget Working Party to discuss this matter intelligently I should be very grateful if delegations could let me have, not later than 5 November any views and observations on the subject, which they believe could be helpful to the discussion.

In this connexion delegations will wish to bear in mind the following:

- (1) The total costs including stencilling, rolling, printing of mast-heads, translation and postal charges amount to approximately Sw.frs. 20,000 for about 15,600 copies, giving a cost price per copy of Sw.frs. 1.23. The present rate of subscription for twelve months amounts to Sw.frs. 12.-, i.e. Sw.frs. 1.- per copy.
- (2) Out of 1,300 copies issued per month payment is received in respect of 170 copies only, which means that 87 per cent of the issue is delivered free of charge.
- (3) The time spent by various officers of the secretariat in preparing the Trade News Bulletin is considerable.

Amongst the various alternatives the Budget Working Party may wish to consider are the following:

- (a) Payment by governments for the Bulletin at Sw.frs. 2.- per copy.
- (b) Limiting the free distribution.
- (c) Shortening the Bulletin by omitting certain sections.
- (d) Abandoning the French edition.
- (e) Suppressing the Bulletin altogether.