

20 October 1960

COMMITTEE II - INTERIM REPORTCountry consultations

In its Second Report (L/1192 dated 19 May 1960) the Committee noted that consultations had been held with twenty-four countries on their agricultural policies. Consultations were held with five countries (Brazil - L/1317, Czechoslovakia - L/1265, Greece - L/1322, Turkey - L/1232 and Yugoslavia - L/1223) during the sixteenth session. In the Report of Committee II on Future Work Arrangements (document L/1207 dated 28 May 1960) the Committee requested the secretariat to make arrangements for consultations to be held with those countries which had not yet consulted. Two countries (Israel and Ghana) consulted during the meeting of the Committee in October. Five other countries (Cambodia, Chile, India, Pakistan and Tunisia) have also indicated their willingness to consult with the Committee; consultations with two (Cambodia and India) have been scheduled to take place during the seventeenth session. Dates for the consultations with the remaining three countries (Chile, Pakistan and Tunisia), and any other countries which may subsequently indicate their readiness to consult, will be arranged by the secretariat in co-operation with the countries concerned and will possibly be scheduled to coincide with a session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES or a meeting of the Council in the first half of 1961.

Commodity discussions

In the Report of Future Work Arrangements referred to above, the Committee recommended that the next stage of its work should be an analysis, on a global basis, of the effects of individual agricultural policies and systems on international trade in each of the groups of the commodities examined by the Committee during the country consultations. During its meeting in October, the Committee undertook discussions on dairy products, meat, cereals and fish and commenced a review of sugar but was required to postpone the discussion on vegetable oils and the bulk of the discussion on sugar to a future meeting of the Committee.

Nature and scope of the Committee's Third Report

The Committee decided to reconvene early in February 1961 to consider a Third Report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The exact timing of the meeting would depend upon the overall work programme to be drawn up by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the seventeenth session. The Committee gave preliminary consideration to the nature of the conclusions which should be contained in this Report

of the Committee and agreed on procedures by which discussions could take place. A draft outline of a Report, consisting of contributions from various delegations and consolidated by the delegations themselves in consultation with the secretariat, was submitted to the Committee. It was intended that this paper should serve as a first basis for discussion by the Committee and should not in any way bind the delegations which contributed to the text. Members of the Committee were invited to submit to the secretariat their comments on the draft paper prior to 31 December. On the basis of these comments, the secretariat would prepare a consolidated draft which would be distributed to members of the Committee in mid-January 1961.

Measurement of agricultural protectionism

As indicated in paragraph 6 of the Second Report of the Committee, the Committee appointed a small group to study the possibilities of measuring agricultural protection. This group met and submitted its report during the October meeting of the Committee. The Committee considered the report of the Study Group.