The principal purpose of the meeting of the Intersessional Committee commencing on 24 September is to examine the items included in the Provisional Agenda for the Thirteenth Session with a view to clarifying and defining the issues involved and to undertake such preliminary work as would facilitate and expedite the discussions at the Session. In this document the agenda items are accompanied by explanatory notes intended to assist the Committee in its task.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business at the Session will be considered by the Committee at its statutory meeting to be held just prior to the Session.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Under Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen are to be elected not later than seven days following the opening of the Session. The Executive Secretary proposes that there be a meeting of Heads of Delegations to consider this question on Friday, 17 October.

3. NOMINATION OF CHAIRMAN OF ICCICA

At the Twelfth Session the CONTRACTING PARTIES renominated Sir Edwin McCarthy as Chairman of ICCICA. His term of office expires during the Session.

4. ADMISSION OF LAOS AND CAMBODIA AS CONTRACTING PARTIES

In accordance with the Recommendation of 22 November 1957 (6th S.p.10) the "reasonable period" during which contracting parties should continue to apply de facto the General Agreement to Laos and Cambodia, provided this treatment is reciprocated, will end on 30 October 1958. To date the secretariat has received no definite indication from the two governments as to their intentions in this matter.
5. **THE ROME TREATIES**

At the Twelfth Session the Intersessional Committee was instructed to continue the examination of the Rome Treaties (6th S.p.69). The Report of the Working Party on the Association of Overseas Territories has been distributed (L/805/Rev.1 and Add.1-12). At its meeting in April the Committee gave particular attention to the procedures to be followed for consultations between Member States of the European Economic Community and other contracting parties (IC/SR.38 and L/822 and Add.1). The secretariat has been notified of requests for consultations on six commodities, but has not been informed of arrangements made for the conduct of the consultations.

A draft report on the Committee's action since the Twelfth Session will be submitted for approval at the Committee's meeting on 15 October.

6. **EUROPEAN FREE-TRADE AREA PROPOSALS**

The Intersessional Committee was requested to maintain contact with the OEEC on developments in this field and to submit a report to the Session (SR.12/20). In April a representative of the OEEC informed the Committee on the status of the negotiations (IC/SR.38 and L/812).

7. **FRANCO-TUNISIA CUSTOMS UNION**

The customs union between France and Tunisia came into force on 1 January 1956 (L/475). In a subsequent memorandum (L/559) the French Government indicated the changes introduced in trade relations and tariffs. It was decided at the Twelfth Session to maintain this item on the agenda (SR.12/18). Unless some contracting parties feel that some action should be taken the Committee may wish to suggest that this item be removed from the agenda.

8. **NICARAGUA - EL SALVADOR FREE-TRADE AREA**

The Seventh Annual Report by Nicaragua has not yet been received.

9. **TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

(a) Report by Panel of Experts (see Decision of 29 November 1957, 6th S.p.18).

The text of the report, which was subject to editorial changes, was distributed in August (MT/60/58). The final text, including the statistical and other appendices, will be available in printed form early in October.

(b) Report by the CONTRACTING PARTIES' nominee as Chairman of ICCICA.

In accordance with the Resolution of 17 November 1956 (see 5th S.p.26), the Chairman of ICCICA, Sir Edwin McCarthy, will submit an annual report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.
At their last three sessions the CONTRACTING PARTIES have discussed their experiences under the Resolution of 4 March 1955 (see 3rd S.p.50) on the liquidation of agricultural surpluses and have agreed to retain the item on their agenda.

10. ARTICLE XVI: REVIEW AND "STANDSTILL"

It was agreed at the Twelfth Session to review the operation of the provisions of Article XVI in accordance with paragraph 5 of that Article (SR.12/22). This review will include the question of the implementation of paragraph 4 which envisages the abolition of all export subsidies on products other than primary products. (The Declaration extending the "standstill" provisions of paragraph 4 (6th S.p.24) has not yet entered into force.) A document will be issued shortly consolidating the most recent notifications, submitted pursuant to Article XVI, describing the nature and extent of subsidies being maintained by contracting parties. The Committee may wish to consider whether any other preparations should be made and whether any recommendations should be made to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for the conduct of the review.

11. BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

(a) Review of Restrictions under Articles XII and XVIII:B: It was agreed at the Twelfth Session (6th S.p.39) that the review of import restrictions applied under Articles XII and XVIII:B, provided for in paragraphs 4(b) and 12(b) of these Articles respectively, should be effected in 1958 and completed at the Thirteenth Session. The secretariat is preparing a draft document which will shortly be transmitted to contracting parties.

(b) Plan for Consultations under Article XII:4(b) in 1959: In accordance with the provisions of Article XII:4(b), contracting parties applying import restrictions under that Article should enter into annual consultations with the CONTRACTING PARTIES one year after the initiation of the review referred to above. As the review will be effected in 1958 such consultations would therefore be conducted in 1959. The Executive Secretary will submit suggestions on arrangements and procedures for the carrying out of these consultations.

(c) Consultations and Report under Article XIV:1(g): Australia, Ceylon, Ghana, Malaya, New Zealand, Rhodesia and Nyasaland and the United Kingdom have initiated consultations under Article XIV:1(g). The consultation with New Zealand was carried out in April in conjunction with the consultation referred to in (d) below. The
Intersessional Committee has recommended that the consultation with the United Kingdom be carried out early in 1959 in conjunction with the consultation with the United Kingdom referred to in (b) above. The Article XIV:1(g) consultations with the other five countries will be conducted at the Thirteenth Session.

The Review referred to in (a) above will also cover the discriminatory aspects of the application of quantitative restrictions, and accordingly should be deemed as incorporating the Ninth Annual Report provided for in Article XIV:1(g).

(d) Report on Consultations with New Zealand: Following modifications introduced by New Zealand in its import restrictions on 1 January 1958 the Intersessional Committee appointed a Working Party to conduct a consultation with New Zealand under Article XII:4(a). This, as well as the consultation under Article XIV:1(g) referred to in (c) above, was held in April. The report (L/816) will be submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for adoption.

12. GERMAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

The Intersessional Committee has examined this problem and its report is contained in L/817. The Federal Republic of Germany will report on action taken to remove its remaining import restrictions.

13. EXPIRATION OF THE "HARD CORE" DECISION OF 5 MARCH 1955

The Decision of 1 November 1957 (6th S.p.32) extended the time-limit in paragraph A:1 of the Decision of 5 March 1955 (3rd S.p.38) and provided for a review of that paragraph at the Thirteenth Session.

14. FIRST ANNUAL REVIEW UNDER PARAGRAPH 6 OF ARTICLE XVIII

A Report is to be submitted by Ceylon giving information of the type described in paragraph 50 of the Article XVIII Panel's Report at the Twelfth Session (6th S.p.130).

15. REQUEST BY CEYLON FOR RELEASES UNDER ARTICLE XVIII

The Government of Ceylon has notified the CONTRACTING PARTIES of its intention to have recourse to the provisions of Section C of Article XVIII with respect to toothbrushes, electric bulbs and certain sarees (L/836/Add.1). The Ceylonese authorities have indicated that supporting statements will soon be forwarded.

16. PLANS FOR TARIFF REDUCTION

It was agreed at the Twelfth Session that this item should appear on the Agenda (SR.12/16).
17. ACCESSION OF SWITZERLAND

Negotiations, pursuant to the procedures agreed upon at the Eleventh and Twelfth Sessions (5th S.p.40 and SR.12/3), have been in progress since 20 May, but it is not yet certain when they will be completed. In any event the Executive Secretary feels there would be advantage in the CONTRACTING PARTIES adopting a decision enabling the Government of Switzerland to participate fully in the Session.

18. BRAZILIAN TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS

Negotiations, pursuant to the Decision of 16 November 1956 (5th S.p.36), have been in progress since 14 February and it is expected that most of the negotiations will be completed shortly. The Tariff Negotiations Committee will meet shortly to consider the results of the negotiations and to prepare a report and a protocol.

19. CUBAN TARIFF REFORM

With reference to the waiver granted to Cuba by the Decision of 30 November 1957 (6th S.p.27), the Cuban Government has proposed this item for the agenda in order to inform the CONTRACTING PARTIES of the present situation with regard to the introduction of the revised tariff, the status of negotiations and other questions referred to in the above Decision.

20. PERUVIAN IMPORT CHARGES

A proposal by the Government of Peru to impose temporary supplementary charges on imports, including bound items, was considered by the Intersessional Committee in June. The supplementary charges have since been applied to items bound in the Peruvian schedule. This question has been referred to the Session with a view to reaching a generally acceptable settlement. (See IC/SRé39, L/827 and L/828 and Add.1.)

21. RHODESIA AND NYASALAND TARIFF

The representative of Rhodesia and Nyasaland informed the Intersessional Committee in July (IC/SR.40) that negotiations with the Government of Australia for the adjustment of preferences had not been completed within the period provided in the Decision of 3 December 1955 (4th S.p.17). In accordance with paragraph (c) and the first proviso of the latter Decision, the Government of the Federation will submit a report to the Session.

22. NORWEGIAN SCHEDULE: CONVERSION OF SPECIFIC DUTIES

This item has been proposed by the Government of Norway. A supporting document, describing the reform of the Norwegian tariff and the adoption of the Brussels Nomenclature and asking authority to convert specific duties in the Norwegian schedule into ad valorem duties, in accordance with established GATT procedures, is being distributed.
23. ANTI-DUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES

On the basis of the secretariat analysis of national laws and regulations on the levy of anti-dumping and countervailing duties (L/712, published in GATT/1958-2) contracting parties were invited to submit their views and suggestions for further studies. The secretariat will submit in advance of the Session a document based on the replies received.

24. TRADE AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

(a) Consular formalities

Under the Recommendation of 30 November 1957 (6th S.p.25) contracting parties maintaining consular formalities were requested to report by 1 September on steps taken towards their abolition (L/839). A note containing the replies received will be distributed.

(b) Marks of origin

The secretariat is preparing a draft recommendation based on the Report adopted at the Eleventh Session (5th S.p.103 and SR.12/18). (An invitation for contracting parties to submit suggestions and a proposal by the International Chamber Of Commerce were distributed in L/788.)

(c) Nationality of imported goods

Consideration of this item was deferred to the Thirteenth Session (SR.12/11).

25. RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES

The secretariat was instructed to collect and analyse documentation on this subject and submit it to the Intersessional Committee. A memorandum is being distributed (MGT/75/58). The Committee is to decide whether to establish a working party or group of experts or to refer the matter to the Session with suitable recommendations (SR.12/14).

26. FREEDOM OF CONTRACT IN TRANSPORT INSURANCE

A working party of the Tenth Session submitted a draft recommendation on the elimination of restrictions in the field of transport insurance (L/412). Consideration of the recommendation was deferred after several contracting parties had indicated that they would welcome an opportunity to pursue discussions with other governments before the question was taken up again by the CONTRACTING PARTIES. At the Twelfth Session it was agreed to include this item in the agenda for the Thirteenth Session.
27. REPORTS UNDER WAIVERS

(a) Australia/Papua-New Guinea (2nd S.p.18 and 5th S.p.34)

The Fifth Annual Report by Australia is to be submitted before the opening of the Session.

(b) Belgium/Import Restrictions (3rd S.p.38 and 4th S.p.22)

The Third Annual Report by Belgium is to be submitted before the opening of the Session.

(c) Franco-German Trade with the Saar (6th S.p.30)

The First Annual Report by France and the Federal Republic of Germany has not been received.

(d) Italy/Libya (1st S.p.14 and 4th S.p.16)

The Sixth Annual Reports by Italy and Libya have been received. The waiver, which expires on 31 December 1958, provides for a review of the situation at this Session.

(e) United Kingdom/Article I (2nd S.p.20 and 3rd S.p.25)

Fifth Annual Report by the United Kingdom (L/850).

(f) United Kingdom/Dependent Overseas Territories (3rd S.p.21)

Fourth Annual Report by the United Kingdom (L/844).

(g) United States/Agricultural Adjustment Act (3rd S.p.32)

The Fourth Annual Report by the United States (under paragraph 6 of the conditions and procedures annexed to the Decision of 5 March 1955) is to be submitted before the opening of the Session.

28. CONCILIATION

(a) French Stamp Tax (L/720)

At the Twelfth Session the French Government announced its intention to reduce the rate of the tax and undertook to inform the CONTRACTING PARTIES when the measure came into force (SR.12/5).

(b) French Assistance to Exports of Wheat and Flour

At its meeting in April the Intersessional Committee appointed a Panel to examine a complaint by Australia. After hearing statements from the parties concerned the Panel adjourned to enable a continuance of bilateral discussions (IC/SR.38). The secretariat has now been informed by the Australian Government that there has been no satisfactory outcome and has requested that the Panel be reconvened early in the Session.
(c) French Discrimination against Imported Agricultural Machinery (L/695)

At the Twelfth Session the French representative stated that his Government was considering a proposal to remove the discrimination and that the CONTRACTING PARTIES would be notified when such action was taken (SR.12/19).

(d) Italian Discrimination against Imported Agricultural Machinery (L/649)

The Panel appointed by the Intersessional Committee in April (IC/SR.38) met in July and its report (L/833) is submitted for consideration and approval.

29. APPLICATION OF ARTICLE XXXV TO JAPAN

At the Twelfth Session it was agreed that the Japanese Government would continue its discussions with the fifteen contracting parties which are having recourse to Article XXXV and would report to the Thirteenth Session.

30. STATUS OF THE AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOLS

The Intersessional Committee was instructed to review the status of the protocols of amendment and of the Agreement on the Organization for Trade Cooperation and to report to the Session (see Resolution of 28 November 1957, 6th S.p.12). In April the Committee decided to review the situation with regard to definitive application of the Agreement (IC/SR.38). Papers by the secretariat will be distributed.

31. SCHEDULES

(a) Rectification and modification

An Eighth Protocol will be prepared during the Session. Contracting parties were asked to submit requests by 16 September (L/826). Submissions have been received from Cuba (L/829) and from Australia, Benelux, Denmark, Finland and India. New schedules have been submitted for incorporation in the Protocol by Austria, Ceylon (L/852), Norway, Sweden (L/849) and the United Kingdom. Documentation not already issued is being prepared for distribution.

(b) Consolidation

The secretariat will issue a list of the Consolidated Schedules that have been submitted. The question of the publication of, and of giving legal status to, the Consolidated Schedules is to be discussed at the Session (6th S.p.134).
32. FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND BUDGET

(a) Audited accounts for 1957 and report by auditors (L/835).
(b) Financing of 1958 budget
(c) Budget estimates for 1959 (L/845)
(d) Staff Rules and Regulations and Financial Regulations (L/756, paragraphs 30 and 33).

Since it has proved impossible for various reasons to prepare proposals in time for the Session the Executive Secretary will suggest deferring this item until the Fourteenth Session.

33. TRAINEE PROGRAMME

A report will be submitted by the Executive Secretary

34. INTERSESSIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT

(a) Report by the Committee on action between the Twelfth and Thirteenth Sessions

A draft report will be submitted for approval at the meeting of the Committee to be held on 15 October.

(b) Renewal of arrangements

(c) Election of Committee

The Committee is usually composed of seventeen members elected according to the criteria set out on page 201 of Basic Instruments and Selected Documents, Vol. II. At the Twelfth Session, however, it was decided that, in view of the importance to all contracting parties of questions relating to the Rome Treaty, the Committee for the period between the Twelfth and Thirteenth Sessions would be composed of all contracting parties. The Executive Secretary will submit suggestions in a note to be issued shortly.

35. DATE AND PLACE OF FOURTEENTH SESSION

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Proposed by the Government of Austria:
measures imposed by Italy in favour of domestic Production of Ship's Plates.

Proposed by the Executive Secretary:
Facilities for temporary admission of Professional Equipment and Packing Material.
(A draft recommendation submitted by the International Chamber of Commerce is being distributed.)