The following suggestions for a work programme are submitted as a basis for discussion at the meeting of the Working Party on 16 December.

1. In Section C of the Report of the Sub-Group (W.12/59), a number of products were singled out as being the most important from the point of view of several contracting parties. Consequently, it is suggested that these products should be given priority in the work of the Working Party which will begin at the meeting on 5 February 1958.

2. I would suggest the following time-table for the work of the Working Party. At the first meeting (5 to 15 February), the Working Party would examine a first group of products and I suggest the following: cocoa, bananas, wood and timber, coffee, tobacco and hard fibres. There would then be an interval of about two weeks, and the Working Party would resume its work at a second meeting (26 February to 8 March) to deal with the remaining products, viz. oilseeds and vegetable oils, sugar, tea and cotton, as well as any additional items which members may want to include for discussion at this stage.

3. It is suggested that the discussion of each product should proceed on the following lines:

   (a) An examination of the legal position of each commodity under the Treaty, taking into account the level of the common tariff and the rate at which that level will be achieved by each of the Six; the rate at which tariffs will be reduced to zero for imports from the associated territories; the position with regard to fiscal duties and quota arrangements; and the position of the commodity under the agricultural provisions of the Treaty and Annex II.

   (b) An analysis of the present pattern of trade, showing exports from the associated territories and from other suppliers to the Six, and the supplies available in those territories and elsewhere.

   (c) A discussion of short-term effects of the provisions of the Treaty on patterns of trade and price levels, and also of the probable long-term effects taking into account production plans and likely changes in consumption.

4. The secretariat will seek the relevant data under (a) from the Six and will prepare the necessary background material on each commodity under (b). This material will be circulated about ten days in advance of the two suggested meetings. Members of the Working Party and other contracting parties are invited to furnish to the secretariat by the middle of January any material they wish to see included in these papers.