WORKING PARTY ON THE ASSOCIATION OF OVERSEAS TERRITORIES WITH THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

COMMODITY NOTE: RAW HIDES AND SKINS
(Brussels Nomenclature: 41.01)

Submitted by the United Kingdom Delegation

1. This commodity appears in List F and the duty proposed for the Community as a whole is 0 per cent.

2. A number of British D.O.T's have a considerable interest in the export of hides and skins but, for the purpose of illustration, one example only is given, namely, East Africa.

3. East African territories normally export between £4 and £5 million's worth of hides and skins, representing between 3.5 and 4.4 per cent of their total domestic exports. It should be noted that the hides and skins exports of the British West African territories are of about the same order of magnitude as East Africa.

4. Twenty-five per cent of all hides and skins exported normally to the countries of the Six, spread fairly evenly among them, but with Western Germany, the Netherlands and Italy as possibly the most prominent receiving countries. In other words approximately 1 per cent of East Africa's total domestic exports go to the countries of the Six in the form of hides and skins alone.

5. The commodity is not included in Annex II to the Treaty of Rome, but it should be noted that the provisions of the Treaty permit the inclusion of other items in this Annex should Member countries desire to take this step.

6. The position on raw hides and skins is therefore much the same as that on cotton.

7. A point on which clarification is desired is in relation to the items numbered Ex. 41.03 and Ex. 41.04 on page 221 of the Treaty and connected documents establishing the European Economic Community. Both Nigeria and East Africa have made and are making efforts to stimulate the production and export of half-tanned leathers. It is for this reason that clarification on the two items mentioned is requested.