The following letter which the Chairman of the ICCICA has been
authorised to send to the Secretary-General of the United Nations has
been transmitted by Sir James Helmore to the Chairman of the Executive
Committee for its consideration:

28th June, 1949.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that at its 3rd Session, held in
Paris recently, the ICCICA, in accordance with its usual procedure, has
compiled a Review of events within its field of responsibility. This
Review will be forwarded to you as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the
Committee has asked me to communicate with you on a matter which causes
it some concern and which it seemed desirable to raise with you
separately.

2. When this Committee was established by resolution of the Economic
and Social Council in March 1947, it seemed likely that the setting up
of the International Trade Organization would follow at not too long an
interval. In the meantime, the Council recommended that Members of the
United Nations adopt as a general guide the principles laid down in
Chapter VII of the draft Charter for an International Trade Organization
(now Chapter VI of the Havana Charter) and established this Interim Co­
ordinating Committee to keep informed of and to facilitate inter­
governmental consultation or action with respect to commodity problems.

Mr. Trygvie Lie,
United Nations,
Lake Success,
New York.
The Members of the Committee were to be nominated by yourself on the 
recommendation, in two cases, of certain international bodies. None 
of the Members of the Committee represents a Government. 

3. In the Committee's Review of International Commodity Problems 1948, 
we referred (paragraph 32) to the fact that we did not consider we should 
have the authority or the necessary staff or information to enable us to 
take the place of the International Trade Organization so far as the 
summoning of Commodity conferences is concerned. 

4. During the year that has passed since then, increasing attention 
has been focused on the problems that are arising in connection with 
world trade in commodities and there has been some expression of anxiety 
that inter-governmental consultation and action is not proceeding with 
sufficient speed. At its recent Session, the Committee felt that the 
general principles which should govern inter-governmental consultation 
and action in those fields, were fully set out in Chapter VI of the 
Havana Charter, and that if there had been a prospect that the Inter­
national Trade Organization would be established at an early date, it 
would not be necessary to contemplate any alternative action. As matters 
stand, however, they doubted whether an interim body, not composed of 
representatives of Governments, could effectively exercise the functions 
assigned to the International Trade Organization in this matter by 
Chapter VI of the Havana Charter. They therefore felt that it was a 
matter for consideration whether some further step forward should not now 
be taken, for instance by the establishment of an interim body, composed 
of government representatives and with more specific responsibilities 
such, for instance, as those given to the International Trade Organization 
by Chapter VI of the Havana Charter. 

5. When it authorized the sending of this communication to you, the 
Committee felt that it would be appropriate for the members appointed on 
the nomination of particular bodies to send copies of it simultaneously
to the bodies upon whose nomination they are appointed. I have accordingly sent a copy to the Interim Commission of the International Trade Organization and Mr. Loveland is sending a copy to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

6. Meanwhile the Committee wishes me to assure you that it will continue to carry out the duties assigned to it by the Economic and Social Council.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) J.R.C. Helmore.