SUMMARY RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Held at the Centre William Rappard, Geneva,
on 16 October 1998 at 3.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. J. Weekes (Canada)

Subject discussed: Draft decision on conditions of service applicable to the staff of the WTO Secretariat

Mr. Weekes (Canada) was elected Chairman of the meeting.

The Chairman recalled that the ICITO was created in 1948 by a Resolution adopted at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment in Havana, to carry out specific functions pending the establishment of the International Trade Organization. At its first meeting, on 20 March 1948, the Commission elected its Executive Secretary. The Commission also elected its Executive Committee and delegated all its powers to it, including the power to replace the Executive Secretary if that should become necessary.

The Executive Committee met in September 1948 and approved financial arrangements which conferred authority on the Executive Secretary of ICITO to provide secretariat services to the CONTRACTING PARTIES of the GATT 1947.

Under the provisions of the Agreement on the Transfer of Assets, Liabilities, Records, Staff and Functions from the ICITO and the GATT to the WTO (WT/L/36), the staff of the ICITO presently perform the duties of the Secretariat of the WTO, and the ICITO is to be dissolved on the date on which the members of the Secretariat of the WTO are appointed.

He recalled also that, for legal reasons, such as to enable the Secretariat to engage in contractual transactions and to participate in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, the function of Executive Secretary of ICITO and Director-General of the WTO is exercised by the same person.

The sole purpose of the meeting was to take a decision authorizing the Director-General to inform the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund that ICITO wished to apply for termination of its membership in the Fund on 31 December 1998. This authorization was necessary in pursuance of the Decision earlier adopted by the WTO General Council in WT/GC/W/102/Rev.1 to establish the WTO Secretariat on 1 January 1999.

The Executive Committee so agreed.

The meeting closed at 3.45.