

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON AGENDA AND INTERSESSIONAL BUSINESSNote by ChairmanItem 2 of the Agenda - Arrangements for the Eighth Session

The Intersessional Committee, in its preparations for the Seventh Session, left the question of recommending an order of business until the meeting held immediately preceding the Session. In the case of the Eighth Session, I feel that there would be considerable advantage if the Intersessional Committee at this meeting were to recommend which items might usefully be taken early in the Session. It is, I understand, the intention of a number of contracting parties that their delegations shall be led for the early part of the Session by Ministers. It would therefore appear to me desirable that during this first part of the Session, there should not only be an opportunity for these Ministerial representatives to make any statements which they may wish, on general policy issues, but also that there should be a discussion in Plenary Session of the major issues of the Agenda. I would therefore suggest that the Intersessional Committee recommend that the CONTRACTING PARTIES take up in Plenary Sessions the following questions:

1. Any general policy statements which may be made following the Chairman's opening remarks;
2. Plenary discussion of the item relating to Article XXVIII;
3. Plenary discussion of the item proposed by the United Kingdom (G.46/Add.2);
4. Plenary discussion of the question of Japanese accession.

Moreover, the Intersessional Committee might in my view usefully consider the timing of the balance of payments consultations. The Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES will follow closely the meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund, and it might be therefore of mutual advantage to the I.M.F. and the CONTRACTING PARTIES if the balance of payments items were not taken too early in the Session. I would therefore suggest for consideration that the balance of payments consultations and other balance of payments questions should be concentrated in the month of October.

These are of course only my own suggestions and members of the Committee may well have other suggestions to put forward.