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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE THIRD MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva
on Tuesday, 16 May, at 2.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. W.P.H. VAN OORSCHOT (Netherlands)

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1. Marketing of butter in the United Kingdom (L/1453 and Add.1)

The CHAIRMAN recalled that, at its meeting on 24 March, the Council was requested by the Government of New Zealand to arrange a multilateral consultation under paragraph 1 of Article XXV on the difficulties experienced by New Zealand in marketing butter in the United Kingdom. A consultation was subsequently held in April, in which nineteen contracting parties and associated governments participated. A report on the consultation had been distributed in document L/1453. The Chairman drew the attention of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the suggestion contained in paragraph 9 of the report that, at the present session, the CONTRACTING PARTIES should consider action taken in accordance with the recommendations contained in the report, and consider the means by which conditions in the butter market could be kept under review. The Chairman invited the EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, who had presided over the meetings, to present the report.

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY pointed out that this was the first time there had been a consultation of this kind under Article XXV:1. The availability of these procedures when difficulties arose in the commodity field had been stressed by the Working Party on Commodities. Inter alia part of the importance of the report on the consultation was that it constituted a reaffirmation of the availability of these procedures and of the value of GATT as a forum for the discussion of questions of this sort which had broad implications for a number of contracting parties.

Mr. PRESS (New Zealand) said that it had seemed to New Zealand that its difficulties in the marketing of butter in the United Kingdom was precisely the kind of situation provided for in the joint action provisions of Article XXV:1 and the procedures established thereunder. Having referred to the co-operation and sympathy which was evident during the meeting of the consulting group, Mr. Press said that the real test nevertheless would come when it was seen what, if any, results emerged from the consultation. He then outlined the circumstances of the case and stressed the dependence of New Zealand on butter exports, the disastrous decline in New Zealand's balance of payments to which the fall in butter prices on the United Kingdom market in recent months had contributed heavily, and the reasons why New Zealand could not obtain an economic price for its butter in the United Kingdom market; in this connexion Mr. Press referred to the statistics appended to the report on the consultation (L/1453) and to paragraph 7 on page 2 of that document which analysed the factors which had contributed to the decline in price levels. He also mentioned the report of the Panel on Subsidies (L/1442) and in particular paragraphs 10 and 13 on page 14 of that document.

Mr. Press went on to say that New Zealand hoped that, by having this matter considered in GATT, progress might be made along several lines. It hoped that countries which, as a result of their agricultural price and income support policies had supplies of surplus butter, would exercise restraint in the quantities they sent to the United Kingdom market; that exporting countries would have regard to the need for phasing supplies in the light of the market situation, and to the orderly marketing of surplus stocks; that governments might agree to co-operate by not granting new subsidies and by substantially reducing or eliminating existing subsidies; that governments would adopt a more liberal attitude to imports of butter and thus create opportunities for exporters to divert supplies from the United Kingdom market; that governments would adopt policies designed to raise the consumption of dairy products within their own territories; and, finally, that governments would limit the extent of assistance to producers in order to avoid the creation of surpluses that could be disposed of on the United Kingdom market only by means of export aids.

Mr. Press then drew attention to the conclusions and proposals contained in paragraphs 11 and 12 of Annex A to the report on the consultations (L/1453) and to the consulting group's suggestion that, at the present session, the CONTRACTING PARTIES should consider action taken in accordance with the group's recommendations and the means by which conditions in the butter market could be kept under review. While appreciating, Mr. Press said, the effects of actions taken on the lines of the OEEC recommendations by some governments prior to the GATT consultations, and possible steps taken since the consultations, the fact remained that there were no discernible signs of improvement in the butter marketing situation in the United Kingdom; in fact, a further fall in prices was not unlikely. In this situation, the New Zealand Government had had no alternative but to announce a further drastic tightening of import restrictions.

Continuing, Mr. Press said the situation called for both long-term and short-term remedial action. New Zealand's main concern at the moment must be with short-term measures which could affect a quick improvement in the present situation of the United Kingdom butter market; basically this could only mean measures which would significantly reduce the supplies of butter coming on to the United Kingdom market. In this context, two main and complementary types of action were possible. The first related to action by exporting countries to reduce their exports to the United Kingdom, in particular by taking effective steps to increase consumption within their own borders. The second main possibility was to find alternative export markets for some of the supplies at present flooding the United Kingdom market. In this connexion paragraph 7(d) of the report on the consultations stated in part that "the United Kingdom is the only significant market without quantitative import restrictions of general application on butter". An important contribution to the solution of the problem could be made by the adoption of more liberal import policies, combined with lower domestic pricing policies, by several of the important butter-consuming countries, particularly where there were no balance-of-payments grounds whatever for maintaining the present level of import restrictions.

Mr. Press pointed out that the report did not confine itself entirely to an endorsement of the OEEC recommendations which in themselves had considerable value. It also made reference to Articles VI and XVI and, in the view of his delegation, reports by countries on action taken in accordance with the recommendations in the report should include a statement of what they had done or proposed to do to conform with their obligations under Articles VI and XVI.

In conclusion Mr. Press said, in reference to the final paragraph of the report on the consultations, that New Zealand considered it most necessary for the situation to be kept under close review and proposed a monthly review of the situation by the Council or by a working party perhaps comprising the countries which participated in the recent consultations. These meetings should (a) make an up-to-date assessment of the current situation and immediate outlook in terms of prices, supplies, consumption, stocks, etc.; (b) review action taken by governments in accordance with the recommendations in the report (L/1453) and the effects of those actions; (c) report on what further action seemed necessary.

Mr. HAUGE (Denmark) said his Government had supported the initiative taken by the Government of New Zealand in this matter and accepted the report (L/1453) which had emerged from the consultations. While considering that the recommendations in the report should have been stronger, his Government felt that they might, in the absence of a better and more effective solution, help to alleviate the present situation. Mr. Hauge said that the shortcomings of the OEEC recommendations were recognized and his Government agreed with much of what was contained in the Australian statement in document L/1471. It also agreed that strict compliance with the provisions of Article XVI would make an important contribution to the solution of both the long and short-term problem. Finally, his Government supported the view that the situation in the butter market be kept under review and favoured another meeting on this question in the near future.

Mr. BIERMANN (Netherlands) stated that his Government attached great importance to the consultation held on the marketing of butter in the United Kingdom. He pointed out that the dairy industry was the largest contributor to agricultural income in his country and noted that the Netherlands was an efficient traditional exporter of dairy products; for this reason his Government welcomed the initiative of the Government of New Zealand in proposing consultations under paragraph 1 of Article 25. In the view of his Government the consultation was of particular importance as it provided an opportunity for countries outside the OEEC to agree to take appropriate measures along the lines recommended in the OEEC report on this matter. In pointing out that international co-operation could only have fruitful results when it was practised on a broad scale, Mr. Biermann stressed that the present situation could only be alleviated if all countries agreed to co-operate in finding a solution to the problem. The Netherlands had already implemented several measures, such as the reduction of prices on the internal market, with considerable success. In 1960 a decrease in butter prices had led to a substantial increase in consumption; despite the fact that prices had later been increased, butter consumption remained at the same level. This experience should be kept in mind by marginal exporting countries. It was the intention of his Government to take any necessary measures that would help to improve the situation. As an OEEC country, the Netherlands could endorse the recommendations contained in document L/1453. His Government regretted that in view of the shortage of time it had not been possible for countries participating in the consultation to agree to specific proposals in relation to their obligations under the General Agreement. His Government saw merit in the suggestion by the Government of New Zealand that the matter should be kept under review. He pointed out that private trading interests held regular meetings in London to consider the situation in the butter market; hence a monthly review of the question in GATT would appear to be unwarranted. He recommended that the CONTRACTING PARTIES take note of the report and that the countries participating in the first consultation agree to continue to review the situation in the very near future.

Mr. DE SMET (Belgium) said that the five other Member States of the EEC could accept the report of the consulting group. They agreed with the representative of the Netherlands that a monthly review would be too frequent and supported the suggestion that the question be referred to the Council which would make the necessary arrangements for the review.

Mr. PHILLIPS (Australia) said that, as would be seen from the statement circulated in document L/1471, Australia had serious doubts about the effectiveness and results of the consultations, where efforts had tended to be concentrated on what had already been done in this field. An attempt had been made to deal in two days with a serious problem requiring more lengthy examination; for this reason, considerable attention was paid to the OEEC recommendations, rather than to the formulation of specific proposals on GATT lines. It was unfortunate that the starting point of the consultations had not been an examination of rights and obligations under GATT; problems of this sort should essentially be dealt with within this framework. Mr. Phillips suggested that the report on the consultations be regarded simply as a progress

report. His delegation saw merit in the consultations being continued, not by the Council, but by interested countries, in particular those which participated in the original consultations. He would recommend that the consulting group be reconvened in June.

The CHAIRMAN said it had been recognized that the situation in the butter market was serious and that the GATT consultations in April should be followed up. He proposed that the CONTRACTING PARTIES should take note of the report on the consultations (L/1453) as a progress report, and that the consulting countries should be invited to continue their consultations in the second half of June.

This was agreed.

2. Subsidies (L/1442 and Add.1)

(a) Review of Article XVI

The CHAIRMAN said that paragraph 5 of Article XVI provided that the CONTRACTING PARTIES "shall review the operation of the provisions of this Article from time to time". At their twelfth session the CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed that a review should be carried out at the thirteenth session. At that session a Panel was established to prepare for the review. The Panel had now completed its work and its final report had been distributed in document L/1442.

Mr. JARDINE (United Kingdom) said that Mr. Wilks, Chairman of the Panel, had unfortunately been unable to attend the session. Reading the comments which, he said, Mr. Wilks would have made in presenting the Panel's report Mr. Jardine recalled that, in 1959 and 1960, the Panel had examined the notifications on subsidies submitted by contracting parties and the kind of measures notifiable under Article XVI; following this examination, the CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted a recommendation by the Panel aimed at improving the notification procedure. During 1961 the Panel had concentrated mainly on assembling material for a report on the operation of Article XVI. Although the information submitted by contracting parties had improved, particularly since the new questionnaire was introduced, a fuller response was needed from contracting parties before a comprehensive analysis could be undertaken. Less than half the contracting parties had submitted notifications on the new basis when the Panel met, with the consequence that the secretariat would have to complete some of the analytical and statistical work later in the year. In this connexion, it should be remembered that there was no advantage in not submitting the notifications, as consultations about subsidy arrangements could in any case always be requested even in the absence of a notification. Mr. Jardine said that the Panel invited the CONTRACTING PARTIES, in connexion with their forthcoming review of the operation of Article XVI, to take into account its report (L/1442) and the analytical and statistical work to be undertaken by the secretariat as well as the Panel's two earlier reports (L/970, L/1160). Finally, an important factor in the consideration of this question would, of course, be the situation as regards the two Declarations relating to paragraph 4 of Article XVI.

Mr. JOHANSEN (Denmark) said that the use of subsidies and their effects on production, consumption and trade had led to a distortion of the pattern of international trade in agricultural products to the damage of normal competitive producers and of countries whose economy was mainly based on the efficient production of agricultural commodities. Denmark had therefore followed the work of the Panel with great interest and had repeatedly stressed the importance of its work. Now that the Panel had finished its work, Mr. Jchansen said, the way should be clear for the review foreseen in Article XVI. He therefore suggested that the matter be included in the agenda for the nineteenth session.

Mr. PHILLIPS (Australia) said that Australia's interest in this subject, which had been a very important one at the Review Session, was well known. The CONTRACTING PARTIES had the Panel's three reports and his delegation believed that the basis now existed for the review of Article XVI. He, like the representative of Denmark, would suggest that the review be undertaken at the nineteenth session.

Mr. SWARD (Sweden) said that the complexity of the problems gave an indication of the difficulties that would be involved in the review. The review could not be undertaken until the necessary preparatory work had been fully completed. Additional statistical information would be provided by the secretariat and, until this was available, it was not possible to give detailed comments. Mr. Sward said he hoped that, before the nineteenth session, all contracting parties would have submitted their notifications on the basis of the new questionnaire; failure to do so might adversely affect the willingness of other contracting parties to continue their notifications. In this connexion Sweden would have to reserve its position with respect to the scope of future notifications; its attitude would depend largely on the degree of participation by contracting parties in the submission of notifications.

Mr. WARREN (Canada) said that, like other representatives, he did not wish to make substantive comment on the Panel's report at the present time, but he noted that the report confirmed that subsidization of production and exports, especially in the field of primary products, posed a very important problem for the CONTRACTING PARTIES. His delegation agreed that the review of the operation of Article XVI should take place, or at least be initiated, at the nineteenth session and that the work of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in this regard would be greatly facilitated if the contracting parties concerned would submit their notifications in good time.

Mr. PHILIP (France) said that his delegation, like others, hoped that before the nineteenth session the number of notifications would have considerably increased and that the replies would conform with the questionnaire so that, in the light of more details on the international situation in this field, there would be a better basis for the discussion of this problem.

Mr. XYDIS (Greece) explained that Greece had not replied to the questionnaire simply because it had no subsidies in terms of Article XVI. He supported the proposal of the representative of Denmark that the question should be included in the agenda for the nineteenth session.

The CHAIRMAN urged those contracting parties which had not yet submitted their notifications to do so at an early date. He proposed, in the light of the consensus of opinion, that the review should be carried out by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the nineteenth session.

This was agreed.

(b) Article XVI:4 - Declaration

The EXECUTIVE SECRETARY recalled that, at the Review Session, it was agreed to amend Article XVI by providing in paragraph 4 of the Article for a ban on subsidies on industrial products: it was hoped that this would take effect on 1 January 1958 or at an early date thereafter. In fact this hope had not materialized up to the time of the seventeenth session. At that session, a Declaration was drawn up to give effect to Article XVI:4. Some delegations, and particularly the delegation of France, felt it desirable to strengthen Article XVI and to permit the necessary action in this matter to be taken within GATT, so as to achieve the widest possible application of the ban. The Executive Secretary said that, at the present time, the Declaration had been accepted by only seven contracting parties, namely Belgium, France, Norway, Luxemburg, Canada, the Netherlands and the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The Declaration was, therefore, not yet in force, as it had not been accepted by the necessary number of key countries. He would suggest that the CONTRACTING PARTIES urge the contracting parties concerned to deposit instruments of acceptance at an early date.

The CHAIRMAN impressed upon the contracting parties concerned the desirability of their taking the necessary action in this matter without delay.

3. Commercial policy problems of newly-independent States (L/1458 and Add.1)

The CHAIRMAN recalled that the Executive Secretary's proposals (L/1458 and Add.1), regarding assistance to newly-independent countries in dealing with their commercial policy problems, were examined by the Council in February and in the week preceding the present session. The discussions of the Council were summarized in the Council minutes (C/M/4 and C/M/6). At its recent meeting the Council decided to forward the Executive Secretary's proposals to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for consideration at the present session and to draw attention to the minutes of the Council's discussion (C/M/6). It would be seen from these minutes that there was a large measure of support in the Council for the proposal that the CONTRACTING PARTIES should stand ready to provide technical assistance of the kind which the GATT was best fitted to provide,

while collaborating with other inter-governmental organizations which were active in the field of technical assistance, so as to avoid duplication. The Council hoped that, at the present session, individual contracting parties would make known their willingness to co-operate and that the CONTRACTING PARTIES would agree as a first step to indicate to the countries concerned their willingness to furnish advice and guidance on matters falling within the competence and jurisdiction of the GATT and to authorize the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Council, to take the necessary steps to respond to requests received.

Mr. HADRABA (United States) said that the United States wholeheartedly supported the initiative of the Executive Secretary in the important task of offering advice and assistance to newly-independent countries which might come to the secretariat with either specific requests in the field of commercial policy or with broader trade problems. There might well be a variety of ways in which the CONTRACTING PARTIES could be of service to the new countries and it seemed to the United States delegation highly desirable that the contracting parties should make known their willingness to help on the whole range of problems within the competence of GATT. The terms of reference should be kept broad, of course, and the initiative should naturally always rest with the requesting country. If the form of assistance was left flexible, to be tailored to the particular request, this would also improve the prospect of responding effectively to what would doubtless prove to be a varying range of requests. Since this programme would break new ground for the CONTRACTING PARTIES, Mr. Hadraba said, his delegation wished to support the idea that the programme be undertaken without too much effort to specify details in advance, and with the possibility of making adjustments and modifications as the programme proceeded. Experience alone could show what might be the range and number of problems on which the Executive Secretary might be asked to give advice and assistance and what were the best ways of meeting them.

The United States delegation, Mr. Hadraba continued, would therefore support an announcement to the newly-independent countries of the willingness of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to furnish advice and guidance on problems within their competence. At the present session, the Executive Secretary should be authorized, in consultation with the Council, to take the necessary steps to respond along the lines outlined in his proposal. The United States, for its part, stood ready to co-operate.

Mr. DARAMOLA (Nigeria) said that the newly-independent States thanked the Executive Secretary for his initiative. He went on to say that he doubted the necessity of reserving to the CONTRACTING PARTIES the approval of any experts or missions appointed; this could lead to delay. His delegation considered that this function could be delegated to the Council and, in this connexion, the possibility of drawing on the services of experts in the newly-independent countries themselves should not be overlooked. In conclusion, Mr. Daramola expressed the hope that the Council's recommendation would receive the ready approval of all contracting parties.

Mr. CAMARA (Brazil) stressed Brazil's support for the Executive Secretary's proposals. Having referred to the friendly feelings of Brazil towards the newly-independent countries and to the practical measures, including bilateral technical assistance and scholarships, which it had already taken, Mr. Camara urged the immediate implementation of these proposals. He also suggested that the Executive Secretary should proceed with his studies of ways and means of helping the newly-independent countries in the solution of their problems of commercial policy and let the CONTRACTING PARTIES have further proposals in this connexion in the near future.

Mr. RIZA (Pakistan) said Pakistan welcomed the Executive Secretary's initiative. At the present stage the matter could only be considered in principle and there was no need to go into questions of mechanisms or techniques. It was important that contracting parties should express their willingness to furnish advice and guidance on matters falling within the competence and jurisdiction of GATT; that the initiative leading to assistance from the CONTRACTING PARTIES must in all cases come from the requesting country; that individual contracting parties would participate by giving assistance in spheres where they were particularly competent; and that there should be close co-ordination with other organizations active in this field. Against the background of these considerations, the Executive Secretary should be given the broad authority to respond to and investigate requests. In conclusion, Mr. Riza said care should be taken to ensure that any financial implications arising from the implementation of the programme did not result in a burden on all contracting parties, bearing in mind that a large number of contracting parties were themselves less-developed countries.

Mr. WARREN (Canada) said that, on the basis of the recent discussion on this question in the Council (C/M/6), contracting parties had a better appreciation of what the Executive Secretary had in mind. His delegation could now give the proposals full support and considered that the CONTRACTING PARTIES should indicate their willingness to furnish advice and guidance on matters falling within the competence and jurisdiction of GATT, using principally experts in the secretariat. Action should only be taken on the initiative of the requesting country and in close collaboration with the other organizations engaged in technical assistance activities. What was being undertaken should not be regarded as a new programme, but as a development of technical assistance to the newly-independent countries in spheres where the CONTRACTING PARTIES were the best fitted to provide the kind of assistance required.

Mr. DARKO-SARKWA (Ghana) supported in principle the Executive Secretary's proposals. In the view of his delegation, he said, it should be possible for the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Council, to draw up a list of experts for each specific request. This list could be submitted to the requesting country, which would be able to select the experts it desired. Ghana might wish to avail itself of the services of such an expert group and might even wish to nominate an expert to serve on the group. In conclusion, Mr. Darko-Sarkwa said that Ghana stood ready to co-operate with the CONTRACTING PARTIES in any decision aimed at furnishing advice and guidance on matters falling within the competence and jurisdiction of GATT.

Mr. DE SMET (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the Member States of the EEC, said that the Community strongly supported the recommendation of the Council. He stressed the need for close co-operation with the United Nations Technical Assistance Authorities.

Mr. MAKIEDO (Yugoslavia), in warmly supporting the Executive Secretary's proposals, said that Yugoslavia welcomed GATT's participation in the overall programme of technical assistance. It was important that action by the CONTRACTING PARTIES should be on the initiative of the requesting country. Yugoslavia envisaged playing its part in the programme.

Mr. MIYAZAKI (Japan) said Japan fully endorsed the Council's recommendation and stood ready to play a positive part in the programme.

Mr. GAL-EDD (Israel) welcomed the recommendation of the Council and expressed Israel's readiness to play an active part. It was ready to offer newly-independent countries the benefit of its own experience as a new country.

Mr. PHILLIPS (Australia), having referred to the need for flexibility and collaboration with other organizations active in the field of technical assistance, said that there should be no delay in initiating action by the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The newly-independent States should now be asked to say what kind of assistance they required; only then would the scope and nature of the assistance be clearly seen. Mr. Phillips said he agreed with the representative of Nigeria that the possibility of assistance from other newly-independent States should not be overlooked in the implementation of the programme. In conclusion Mr Phillips said that, in his proposals, the Executive Secretary had explored one approach to this question. There might be other possibilities of considerable importance and his delegation would hope that some of these could be taken into account as the programme developed.

Mr. WEITNAUER (Switzerland) said that his Government welcomed the Executive Secretary's proposals; the GATT was well placed to make its contribution in this field. Switzerland was ready to participate in the common effort to help the newly-independent countries place their commercial policies on a sound administrative basis. Mr. Weitnauer said he used the word "administrative" in its widest connotation, which would include such questions as the establishment of a cadre of specialist officials, the formation of technical statistical services etc. The actual formulation of commercial policy rested, of course, with the requesting country itself.

Mr. XYDIS (Greece), in welcoming the Executive Secretary's proposals, said that Greece still suffered from some of the problems which beset the under-developed countries. The proposals under consideration aimed at contributing to a solution of problems which were a facet of the main economic

question of the nineteen-sixties - the problems of the under-developed countries. There were two points to be borne in mind in connexion with the proposals however. The first was the need to be clearer as to the possible financial implications involved; some thought should be given to this at the present stage. The second, which had already been stressed in the Council, was the need to take full account of what was being done in this field by other organizations such as UNTAA, the Colombo Plan, the regional commissions of the United Nations etc. The Executive Secretary should keep in close contact with these organizations, so as to avoid duplication of effort and ensure the best use of financial resources and personnel. If, as a result of such contact, it were found that GATT was better qualified to carry out tasks being undertaken or studied by other organizations, the possibility should perhaps be explored of these tasks and the funds available for their implementation being handed over to GATT.

Mr. SWARD (Sweden) welcomed and supported the Council's recommendation (C/M/6). It was important that GATT should make available its experience in the trade field. Mr. Sward confirmed Sweden's readiness to co-operate to the greatest extent possible.

Mr. KALLA (Finland) welcomed the initiative taken by the Executive Secretary. Finland was prepared to participate along the lines suggested in document L/1458, provided there was close collaboration with other organizations active in the technical assistance field.

Mr. SWAMINATHAN (India) said that India warmly supported the recommendation of the Council and was willing to assist as much as possible. Mr. Swaminathan supported the comments made by the representative of Nigeria about the possibility of assistance coming from among the newly-independent countries themselves. He also made the point that, just as funds were made available for the trainees' course at the secretariat, so should it be possible to draw on funds from similar sources for experts to work on commercial policy matters. A further possibility was that some countries might be able to have officials from newly-independent countries working for a training period in their government departments.

Mr. KAYRA (Turkey) said that Turkey warmly welcomed the proposals and would participate in the programme to the best of its ability.

Mr. OLDINI (Chile) praised the initiative taken by the Executive Secretary. One point of significance and value, which could with advantage have been copied in other fields of international effort, was that the assistance was being offered before it had been asked for. Secondly, the assistance given would help the GATT as well as the newly-independent countries. There was, in almost every country, an insufficient knowledge of the GATT and the more that could be done to increase this knowledge the better.

Mr. RYSKA (Czechoslovakia) said that Czechoslovakia was willing to give the benefit of its experience to any newly-independent country that requested it.

Mr. JARDINE (United Kingdom) said his delegation agreed that the CONTRACTING PARTIES should proceed in the way recommended by the Council (C/M/6). The United Kingdom was willing to co-operate in any projects that might be proposed.

Mr. HOLLAND (Norway) in expressing the support of his delegation for the proposals and the willingness of Norway to do its best to make assistance available, stressed the importance of close collaboration with other organizations active in this field.

Mr. HAUGE (Denmark) said his delegation agreed that the CONTRACTING PARTIES should be prepared to offer the newly-independent countries technical assistance within the competence of GATT and supported the recommendation of the Council.

Mr. LACZKOWSKI (Poland) said that Poland had had experience of the kind of problems that were involved and was aware of the need for experienced men in a country wishing to build up its economy. He went on to say that Poland was already affording technical assistance to newly-independent countries and had received requests for such assistance in the field of external trade. Poland supported the initiative taken by the Executive Secretary and would participate fully.

Mr. TOWNLEY (Rhodesia and Nyasaland), in welcoming the Executive Secretary's proposals, expressed the view of his delegation that the proposals merited the full support of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

The CHAIRMAN, in summing up, said that the many representatives who had spoken unanimously welcomed the initiative taken by the Executive Secretary and supported the recommendation of the Council.

The recommendation of the Council, as set out in document C/M/6, was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 5.30 p.m.