

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/1848

11 October 1962

Limited Distribution

CONTRACTING PARTIES

Twentieth Session

23 October-16 November 1962

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Notes by the Secretariat on Agenda Items

The provisional agenda for the twentieth session has been distributed in documents L/1830 and Add.1. The following annotations are provided to assist delegations in preparing for the session:

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The provisional agenda will be submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for adoption. The Executive Secretary may have proposals to put forward concerning the order of business. In particular, it appears important, in view of the heavy agenda and the large number of committees and working parties which will have to meet during the session, that the subsidiary bodies should begin their work during the first week. Committee II will meet, if necessary, to continue its examination of the common agricultural policy of the EEC. Further, members of the following should be prepared for a first meeting on 24 or 25 October:

Working Party on Procedures for Tariff Reduction

Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions
(to consult with Chile and India)

Working Party on Relations with Yugoslavia

In addition, the CONTRACTING PARTIES may wish to establish working parties to examine the reports by the Governments of Belgium, Germany and the United States under their waivers authorizing the maintenance of certain import restrictions. Therefore it is desirable that these items be taken in plenary meeting early in the session so the working parties can be established and hold their first meetings before the end of the first week.

2. PROGRAMME FOR EXPANSION OF TRADE(a) Tariff reduction

The Working Party on Procedures for Tariff Reduction, which was appointed at the nineteenth session to examine new procedures and techniques for the further reduction of tariff barriers, will meet during the twentieth session. A note by the Executive Secretary which may provide a basis for discussion has been distributed in document L/1844.

(b) Cereals and meat - Report on work of the Group

At the nineteenth session the CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted certain procedures to give effect to the recommendations of the Ministers. These procedures were designed "to establish the basis for the negotiation of practical measures for the creation of acceptable conditions of access to world markets for agricultural commodities". It was agreed that a beginning would be made in this work with a preliminary examination of possibilities for a solution of the problem of cereals, and for this purpose a group was established. The Council was authorized to establish other preparatory groups and at its meeting in February a group was established to study the problems relating to trade in meat of cattle and sheep.

The Group on Cereals held a first meeting in February and a summary of its discussions has been distributed in document CG/1. A further meeting is envisaged and, as reported to the Council (C/M/9 and 10), the Chairman will continue to consult members of the Group in order to reconvene the Group at the appropriate time.

When the Group on Meat was established it was agreed that the Chairman, in consultation with the members, would decide when the first meeting of the Group should be convened. Consultations have been carried out and a preparatory meeting took place in May. A factual paper on the meat trade was prepared by the secretariat; it was redistributed in document CG/2 in a revised form after taking into account the comments made and the views expressed at the preparatory meeting. The Chairman will continue to consult members of the Group in order to reconvene the Group at an appropriate time when elements are available for constructive action to be taken. Governments have been invited to reflect on the situation stated in the secretariat paper and to put forward practical ideas and suggestions to form a basis for discussion by a group of high level officials.

(c) Committee II - Reports

The Committee is meeting before the session to carry out a consultation with the European Economic Community, examining during such consultation the changes in the agricultural policy of the members countries of the Community (L/1771/Rev.2 and COM.II/134 and Add.1). Meetings of the Committee to complete this consultation will continue if necessary after the opening of the session to enable the Committee to report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES before the close of the session.

The attention of the Committee will be drawn to the changes in agricultural policies which have been notified by Rhodesia and Nyasaland and by Sweden. Further, it is hoped that the draft reports on the consultations with Chile and Pakistan (COM.II/133 and 124/Rev.1) will be submitted for approval at a meeting of the Committee to be held during the twentieth session.

(d) Committee III - Reports

Two reports by Committee III (L/1732 and L/1768) have been submitted to and considered by the Council (C/M/9-10), which recommended their adoption by the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The Committee is meeting again before the session and will submit a further report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES. It is understood that the Committee will examine the five-year development plan of Pakistan at meetings to be held during the session.

(e) Tropical products - Report on work of Special Group

On the recommendation of Committee III the Council approved the appointment of a Special Group on Trade in Tropical Products, which held its first meeting in June. The record of its discussions and conclusions has been distributed in document L/1817. A sub-group was set up to study problems arising from the existence of preferential tariffs and other preferential arrangements, protective tariffs and other barriers to trade. The Executive Secretary will make a progress report on the work of the Sub-Group at the twentieth session.

BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

(a) Consultations under Articles XII and XVIII:B

The reports by the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions on consultations carried out in May with Brazil (L/1777), Ghana (L/1778), Greece (L/1776/Add.1), Israel (L/1775) and Pakistan (L/1787/Add.1) will be submitted for approval (C/M/10). The Committee met again from 24 September to 5 October to carry out consultations under Articles XII and XVIII:B with Ceylon, Denmark, Finland, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa and Uruguay. Consultations with Chile and India will be carried out during the session. The Committee's reports will be submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for approval.

(b) Arrangements for consultations in 1963

As in previous years, the Committee will draw up a programme for the conduct of consultations in 1963. The Committee's proposals will be submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for approval.

4. RESIDUAL IMPORT RESTRICTIONS(a) Implementation of the procedures

The procedures for dealing with restrictions maintained for reasons other than balance-of-payments difficulties (9S/19), which were adopted at the seventeenth session, were regarded as an arrangement of an interim character. The Council was instructed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES to review these procedures in the light of experience and to report its views; at the nineteenth session it was agreed that this review should be carried out in 1962. The question was discussed at the meeting of the Council in May (C/M/10), but it was agreed to defer consideration of the review until the next meeting of the Council on 22 October. A report by the Executive Secretary on the experience gained thus far under the procedures will be distributed.

The notifications of restrictions still maintained, submitted by contracting parties under paragraph 7 of the procedures, were examined by the Panel of Experts, which was appointed at the nineteenth session, at meetings held in February and May. The lists of restrictions examined by the Panel were reproduced in document L/1769 and Addenda thereto and the Panel's report is contained in L/1774 and Add.1.

(b) Review of the "hard-core" waiver

The Decision of 5 March 1955 (3S/38), dealing with "problems raised for contracting parties in eliminating import restrictions maintained during a period of balance-of-payments difficulties" (the "hard-core" waiver), provided in paragraph A:1 that a contracting party wishing to obtain the concurrence of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in the maintenance of restrictions for a limited period should submit its request by 31 December 1957. This time-limit was extended by the Decision of 8 December 1961 (10S/35) until 31 December 1962. At the twentieth session the CONTRACTING PARTIES are to review paragraph A:1 of the Decision of 5 March 1955.

5. FRENCH AND ITALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

The United States Government has advised that it wishes to refer to the CONTRACTING PARTIES, for consideration under paragraph 2 of Article XXIII, the question of certain import restrictions maintained by France and Italy.

Restrictions maintained by France were the subject of a consultation under Article XXII:1 in April 1961 (SR.18/4).

Restrictions maintained by Italy have been the subject of discussion at several sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES; they were the subject of consultations under paragraph 1 of Article XXII and were examined by a working party under paragraph 2 of Article XXII (SR.15/13, SR.16/8, SR.17/12, C/M/4, SR.18/1-2, SR.19/12 and L/1468).

6. RECOURSE TO ARTICLE XXIII BY URUGUAY

When this question was examined by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the nineteenth session the CONTRACTING PARTIES authorized the Council to take up the matter during the intersessional period and to act on their behalf. At its meeting in February the Council appointed a Panel to examine, in accordance with the procedures of paragraph 2 of Article XXIII, the differences arising between Uruguay and a number of other contracting parties concerning the maintenance of certain restrictions and other measures affecting trade. Reports by the Panel will be submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES during the session.

7. IMPACT OF COMMODITY PROBLEMS ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Under the Resolution of 17 November 1956 (5S/26 and 7S/42) the CONTRACTING PARTIES review annually the impact of commodity problems on international trade. The reviews are based on reports submitted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES' nominee as Chairman of ICCICA, and other relevant documents. It is expected that the report by Mr. Hasnie, the Chairman of ICCICA, will be received in time for distribution before the opening of the session. A review of recent trends in commodity trade has been published in the secretariat's annual report entitled "International Trade 1961".

On some occasions the Commodity Working Party has met prior to or early in the session to prepare for the review. This year it was decided by the Council (C/M/10) that it would not be necessary to convene the Working Party unless proposals requiring examination were submitted by governments.

8. DISPOSAL OF COMMODITY SURPLUSES

It was agreed at the nineteenth session that this item should be retained on the agenda and that contracting parties should again be requested to submit reports of any disposal or liquidation operations in which they may have been engaged. A request for the submission of reports has been issued in document L/1814. Further, the Executive Secretary was requested to follow developments in this field and the activities of other intergovernmental organizations; a report on such developments and activities has been distributed in document L/1851. An additional document containing the reports submitted by contracting parties will also be distributed.

9. TRADE IN COTTON TEXTILES

The Cotton Textiles Committee, appointed at the nineteenth session, met in February and drew up the text of a long-term arrangement regarding international trade in cotton textiles. The text is included in document L/1813. The Arrangement entered into force on 1 October 1962 for a period of five years. The Executive Secretary will report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES on the work of the Committee.

10. EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

(a) Information to be furnished by the member States

The member States of the Community will furnish information, pursuant to Article XXIV:7(a) on the implementation of the Rome Treaty.

(b) Association of Greece

The Working Party which was appointed at the nineteenth session to examine the provisions of the Agreement creating an Association between Greece and the Community met in September. The Working Party's report (L/1829) will be submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

(c) Interpretation of Article XXIV:5(a)

The report of the Tariff Negotiations Committee on the Examination of the Common Tariff of the Community, under Article XXIV:5(a) (L/1479) was discussed at the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions (SR.18/4 and SR.19/6-7) and also by the Council in September 1961 (C/M/8). At their nineteenth session the CONTRACTING PARTIES accepted a proposal put forward by the Executive Secretary that the item should appear on the agenda for the twentieth session specifically as the interpretation and application of Article XXIV:5(a). To assist the CONTRACTING PARTIES the Executive Secretary offered to prepare a juridical opinion on this matter and in this connexion a note by the Executive Secretary will be distributed before the opening of the session.

11. EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

The Chairman of the EFTA Council, on behalf of the member States, will furnish information relating to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention. In addition, the Chairman of the Joint Council, on behalf of the partners to the Agreement between the member States of EFTA and Finland, will furnish information on the implementation of this Agreement.

12. LATIN AMERICAN FREE TRADE AREA

(a) Information furnished by the member States

A report on the implementation of the Montevideo Treaty has been received and is being prepared for distribution.

(b) Accession of Colombia and Ecuador

At the nineteenth session the representative of Uruguay informed the CONTRACTING PARTIES that instruments had been drawn up for the accession of Colombia and Ecuador to the LAFTA. It was agreed that this matter would be brought before the Council for consideration when the texts of the instruments were available (SR.19/12). As the texts have not been received the matter has not been dealt with by the Council.

13. CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AREA

Under the Decision of 13 November 1956 (5S/29) the Government of Nicaragua is required to furnish an annual report on the progress achieved towards the elimination of tariffs and other restrictive regulations of commerce within the free-trade area. The report for 1962 will be distributed in the near future.

14. NICARAGUA-EL SALVADOR FREE TRADE AREA

In accordance with the Decision of 25 October 1951 (Volume II/30) the Government of Nicaragua is required to submit an annual report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The report for 1962 will be distributed in the near future.

15. AFRICAN COMMON MARKET

The Government of Ghana has submitted, for examination under paragraph 7 of Article XXIV, the text of the Treaty establishing the African Common Market which was drawn up in Cairo on 1 April 1962 by Algeria, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Morocco and the United Arab Republic. The text has been distributed in document L/1835.

16. GHANA-UPPER VOLTA TRADE AGREEMENT

The Government of Ghana has submitted for examination under paragraph 7 of Article XXIV by the CONTRACTING PARTIES the text of a trade Agreement concluded with the Government of Upper Volta in June 1961. The text of the Agreement has been distributed in document L/1766. The Government of Ghana states that "this Agreement in effect establishes a free-trade area between Ghana and the Upper Volta".

17. ARTICLE XVIII

Under paragraph 6 of this Article the CONTRACTING PARTIES are required to review annually the measures applied by contracting parties pursuant to the provisions of Sections C and D of the Article. Only Ceylon at present applies measures under these provisions. The third annual review was conducted in plenary meeting during the nineteenth session (SR.19/8 and 10S/106). For the fourth review the available data will be assembled in a background document by the secretariat.

18. APPLICATION OF ARTICLE XXXV TO JAPAN

The report of the Working Party which reviewed in 1961 the operation of Article XXXV in respect of Japan (L/1545) was approved by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the nineteenth session. It was agreed to maintain on the agenda of the twentieth session the question of a review of the application of the Article to Japan. The Council was instructed to follow developments in the light of any report that might be made by the countries concerned (SR.19/10). Certain developments since the nineteenth session were noted by the Council at its meeting in May (C/M/10).

19. TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

The Working Party appointed at the nineteenth session, to examine the relation between existing provisions of the GATT and measures affecting international trade in material for showing on television programmes, met in March and submitted a report (L/1741) to the Council in May. The Working Party had not been able to reach a final conclusion and intended to hold a further meeting. The Council took note of the report and agreed that the Working Party should meet again during the twentieth session (C/M/10).

20. CONSULAR FORMALITIES

The Panel of Experts which was established to make a survey of existing consular formalities and to recommend ways and means of ensuring their simplification and elimination, met in March and submitted a report (L/1743) to the Council at its meeting in May. The Council recommends that the report be adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

The recommendations of the Working Party, as endorsed by the Council, are set out in paragraphs 21 and 22 of the report. It is proposed that the CONTRACTING PARTIES should recommend that governments which still maintain consular requirements should remove them in conformity with the earlier recommendations of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, and that these governments should be invited to report at the twenty-first session on the reasons for maintaining the requirements and their future policy in this matter. With reference to the latter recommendation the Council brings to the attention of the CONTRACTING PARTIES "the desirability of providing some machinery whereby these governments could have the benefit of discussions with the experts concerning the difficulties encountered in eliminating the remaining consular formalities" (C/M/10).

21. STATE TRADING AND SUBSIDIES

(a) Review of basic documentation on State trading

In 1959/60 a Panel appointed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES examined the notifications submitted by governments concerning the products imported or exported by enterprises of the kind described in Article XVII:1(a). The reports by the Panel were published on pages 179-185 of the Ninth Supplement of the BISD. A questionnaire on State trading was drawn up by the Panel. The questionnaire was issued in L/1014 and the replies from governments in addenda to that document. Contracting parties have been requested to notify any changes in the operations of State-trading enterprises as and when they occur. It was agreed at the sixteenth session (SR.16/5) that this basic documentation should be reviewed from time to time and that consideration should be given in 1962 to whether it would then be appropriate to initiate such a review (9S/183, paragraph 17).

(b) Arrangements for notifications on subsidies

The Panel on Subsidies, in a report adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 21 November 1961 (10S/206, paragraph 18), proposed that the procedure for requesting contracting parties to submit annual notifications on measures of subsidization should be continued, but suggested that the CONTRACTING PARTIES might wish to review these arrangements in 1962.

22. RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA

Under the Declaration of 25 May 1959 (8S/18) the CONTRACTING PARTIES review annually the development of mutual relations between Yugoslavia and the other parties to the Declaration as well as the possibilities of further progress towards the full application of the provisions of the General Agreement. The third annual review is to be carried out during the twentieth session by the Working Party which was appointed by the Council in May (C/M/10). The procedures and arrangements for this third review, as agreed by the Council, are set out in document L/1791. Documents containing information furnished by Yugoslavia and by the other parties to the Declaration will be distributed to serve as a basis for the deliberations of the Working Party.

In the course of this third review the CONTRACTING PARTIES are to consider "whether the arrangement shall be terminated, modified or continued". In a statement made at the Council meeting on 29 May (L/1800), the Yugoslav representative has stated that his Government desired "to find a solution which would constitute a substantial advance on the Declaration of 25 May 1959 in the form of provisional accession which would serve as a basis for a final solution of its relations with the General Agreement".

23. RELATIONS WITH POLAND

Under the Declaration of 9 November 1959 (SR.8/11) the CONTRACTING PARTIES are required to carry out an annual review. The first review was conducted in May 1962 by a Working Party appointed by the Council. The Working Party's report (L/1785) has been approved by the Council which recommends its adoption by the CONTRACTING PARTIES (C/M/10).

24. PROVISIONAL ACCESSION OF SWITZERLAND

Under paragraph 1(b) of the Declaration of 22 November 1958 (7S/19), as extended by the Procès-Verbal of 8 December 1961 (10S/12), the Government of Switzerland is required to furnish an annual report on the measures maintained consistently with the reservation set out in that paragraph; if so requested by the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the Government of Switzerland will consult with them regarding these measures. The report for 1962 will be distributed prior to the opening of the session.

25. PROVISIONAL ACCESSION OF ARGENTINA

The Declaration of 18 November 1960 (9S/10) will enter into force on 14 October, but will expire on 31 December 1962. The Decision of the same date, inviting Argentina to participate in the work of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, will also expire at the end of 1962. Both the Declaration and the Decision envisage the possibility of extension.

26. ACCESSION OF UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC

The Working Party appointed to examine the request of the Government of the United Arab Republic to accede to the General Agreement pursuant to Article XXXIII will meet from 15 to 19 October. The Working Party's report and recommendations will be submitted to the session for approval. Information furnished by the United Arab Republic on its commercial policy has been distributed in L/1816 and Addenda.

27. ADMISSION OF NEW STATES AS CONTRACTING PARTIES

(a) Trinidad and Tobago

As reported in document L/1827/Rev.1, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, which acquired autonomy in commercial policy matters on 31 August 1962, wishes to be deemed a contracting party in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5(c) of Article XXVI. A draft declaration will be prepared by the secretariat and will be submitted for consideration by the CONTRACTING PARTIES on the first or second day of the session.

(b) Uganda

The Government of Uganda, which will acquire autonomy in commercial policy matters on 9 October 1962, has made a similar request (L/1828) and the same procedure will be followed.

28. NEWLY-INDEPENDENT STATES

The status of various territories under the Recommendations of 18 November 1960 (9S/16) and 9 December 1961 (10S/17) has been reported in document L/1724 and Addenda. An up-to-date statement will be issued before the opening of the session. The position of those territories which have not decided by the time of the session on their future relations with the GATT should be reviewed, as the time-limits provided in the Recommendations will expire in 1963.

29. CANADIAN IMPORT SURCHARGES

On 11 and 12 July the Council met to consider a communication from the Government of Canada advising that certain import surcharges had been imposed in order to safeguard Canada's external financial position and balance of payments. The Council recommends that at the twentieth session the CONTRACTING PARTIES should undertake a careful and detailed examination of the matters which were discussed by the Council and should take whatever definitive action may be required in the circumstances then prevailing (documents L/1805 and Addenda and C/M/11).

30. UNITED STATES SCHEDULE

At the meeting of the Council in May (C/M/10), the Government of the United States was granted authority under paragraph 4 of Article XXVIII to enter into renegotiations for the modification of concessions in the United States schedule as a consequence of the acceptance by the United States Congress of the Tariff Simplification Act. The Council noted the statement made at that meeting by the United States representative to the effect that if it appeared that the renegotiations would not be concluded by the end of the year his Government would request the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the twentieth session to grant a waiver to allow the implementation on 1 January 1963 of the changes made in the tariff as they affect bound items. The United States Government has now confirmed this request for a waiver.

31. CEYLON TEMPORARY DUTY INCREASES

A report by the Government of Ceylon, submitted in accordance with the Decision of 10 April 1961 (10S/35), has been distributed in document L/1834. The increases were to be eliminated by 31 December 1962 but the Government of Ceylon has requested an extension of the waiver.

The Government has advised that further duty increases have been introduced to meet difficulties in the balance of payments.

32. NEW ZEALAND SCHEDULE

The Government of New Zealand has requested a further extension beyond 31 December 1962 of the period during which renegotiations and consultations under the Decision of 4 June 1960 may be completed.

33. NICARAGUAN IMPORT SURCHARGES

The Government of Nicaragua has advised that it wishes to request the CONTRACTING PARTIES to grant an extension for nine months of the Decision of 20 November 1959 (8S/52) which authorized Nicaragua to apply temporary increases in certain bound duties. These increases were to have been eliminated by 30 June 1962. The Government of Nicaragua has furnished information in support of this request and this will be distributed before the session.

34. REPORTS UNDER WAIVERS

(a) Belgian import restrictions

A report under the Decision of 3 December 1955 (4S/22) is expected from the Government of Belgium. The waiver will expire on 31 December 1962 in respect of the remaining restrictions.

(b) France/Germany - trade with the Saar

Under the Decision of 22 November 1957 (6S/30) the Governments of France and the Federal Republic of Germany have submitted annual reports (L/1833).

(c) German import restrictions

Under paragraph 3 of the Decision of 30 May 1959 (8S/31) the Federal Republic is required to consult annually with the CONTRACTING PARTIES and to report on the elimination of the restrictions. The waiver will expire at the close of the twentieth session.

(d) Italian special customs treatment for Libyan products

Under the Decision of 9 October 1952 (1S/14), extended by the Decision of 16 October 1961 (10S/45), an annual report is to be submitted by the Government of Italy on the development of trade under the special treatment accorded, and by Libya on "the economic progress made and expected which would permit Libya to participate in international trade on a normal competitive basis". These reports have been distributed in documents L/1826 and L/1808.

(e) Peruvian import charges

Under the Decision of 6 December 1961 (10S/50) the Government of Peru has submitted a report (L/1841) and has indicated that the surcharges will be eliminated by 30 April 1963.

(f) Rhodesia and Nyasaland - treatment of products of United Kingdom territories

Under the Decision of 19 November 1960 (9S/47) the Government of the Federation is required to submit an annual report on action taken.

(g) United Kingdom/Article I

Under the Decision of 24 October 1953 (2S/20) the United Kingdom has submitted an annual report (L/1850).

(h) United Kingdom/dependent overseas territories

Under the Decision of 5 March 1955 (3S/21) the United Kingdom has submitted an annual report (L/1849).

(i) United States import restrictions

Under the Decision of 5 March 1955 (3S/22) and on the basis of a report to be submitted by the Government of the United States, the CONTRACTING PARTIES are required to review annually any action taken under the Decision. The report will be distributed in L/1836.

(j) Uruguay - import surcharges

Under the Decision of 8 May 1961 (10S/51) Uruguay is required to submit a report and to consult with the CONTRACTING PARTIES annually. The International Monetary Fund has been invited to consult with the CONTRACTING PARTIES in this connexion. The surcharges are to be eliminated by 1 July 1963.

35. STATUS OF PROTOCOLS

A statement on the protocols and other instruments which have not yet been accepted by all contracting parties will be distributed before the opening of the session. A number of protocols and instruments, some of them dating from 1955, have not entered into force because they have not been accepted by two of the contracting parties (Brazil and Uruguay). The most important of these is the Protocol amending Part I and Articles XXIX and XXX which remains open for signature, in accordance with the Decision of 21 November 1961 (10S/18) only until 6 November 1962.

36. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS

The Committee on Budget, Finance and Administration met in September to examine the Executive Secretary's Financial Report on the 1961 Accounts and the Report of the External Auditor and the Executive Secretary's Budget Estimates for 1963. The Committee's report (L/1842) will be submitted to the Council on 22 October, and thereafter to the CONTRACTING PARTIES together with the Council's recommendations.

37. FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

The Executive Secretary reports to the CONTRACTING PARTIES annually on the operation of the secretariat programme for providing training courses for officials from less-developed countries. The report for 1962 will be distributed before the opening of the session.

At the twentieth session the Executive Secretary will report also on the technical assistance which has been afforded, pursuant to a Decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their eighteenth session (SR.18/3), in connexion with the commercial policy problems of newly-independent States.

38. CHAIRMANSHIP OF ICCICA

The Chairman of the Interim Co-ordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements is nominated each year by the CONTRACTING PARTIES for appointment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. At the nineteenth session the CONTRACTING PARTIES nominated Mr. S.A. Hasnie, Pakistan, and Mr. Hasnie was subsequently appointed Chairman of ICCICA by the Secretary-General. The nomination of a Chairman for 1962/63 will be considered in the first instance at a meeting of Heads of Delegations.

39. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Under Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure (7S/7) a chairman and two vice-chairmen are elected during the course of the last session in each calendar year; they hold office from the end of that session until the end of the last session in the following calendar year. The election of officers for 1962/63 will be considered in the first instance at a meeting of Heads of Delegations.

40. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR 1963

During the session, the Executive Secretary will propose a programme for meetings of the Council, Committees and Working Parties, and for sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in 1963.

41. MEETING OF MINISTERS IN 1963

This item has been included on the agenda at the request of the Government of the United States for consideration to be given to the question of convening a meeting of Ministers in 1963.