

prevent damage before it occurs, not to seek to undo damage already done. We think that such consultation procedures could be very useful in creating an atmosphere of closer co-operation and allaying some of the concerns that have been expressed. We would be interested in considering other similar arrangements and perhaps this kind of procedure could be incorporated as part of any general procedures that may be agreed with respect to agriculture. There is a fundamental point that must, however, be borne in mind. The Contracting Parties to the GATT have a responsibility to appraise the Rome Treaty as it develops, in the light of GATT provisions and objectives. If necessary, the Contracting Parties should be prepared to make suggestions and recommendations to the Six with a view to ensuring conformity with these objectives. It is surely in the interests of the Six to co-operate fully in this task. I wish to repeat that we are aware of the great opportunities that could result for world trade from a strengthening and expansion of the Six economies. At the same time, we are conscious that these benefits are dependent on the development of outward-looking policies by the countries concerned. The Six countries are responsible and important members of the world trading community and they will, I am sure, wish to play their full part in our collective efforts towards promoting a more prosperous and expanding world trade.

I wish to conclude by stressing the importance which we attach to our meeting here. Many of the issues I have reviewed are difficult and far-reaching. I am hopeful that at this session we will again be able to find solutions and further the cause of international trade in a spirit of co-operation and understanding. Our Delegation is prepared to participate fully and in a constructive manner in this joint endeavour.

S/C