- 2. If any Member considers that any other Member has failed to fulfil its obligations under paragraph 1 of this Article, such Member may refer the matter to the Organization, which, after investigation, shall make appropriate recommendations to the Members concerned. If the Organization finds that a Member has failed without sufficient justification, having regard to its economic position and the provisions of the Charter as a whole, to carry out negotiations within a reasonable period of time in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 1 of this Article, the Organization may determine that any Member or Members shall, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 16, be entitled to withhold from the trade of the other Member any of the tariff benefits which may have been negotiated pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article, and embodied in Part I of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. If such benefits are in fact withheld, so as to result in the application to the trade of the other Member of tariffs higher than would otherwise have been applicable, such other Member shall then be free, within sixty days after such action is taken, to withdraw from the Organization upon the expiration of sixty days from the date on which written notice of such withdrawal is received by the Organization.
- 3. The provisions of this Article shall operate in accordance with the provisions of Article 81.

Article 17.

The provisions of this Article do not prevent Members from concluding new, or maintaining existing, bilateral tariff agreements which are not incorporated in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, provided that such agreements are consistent with the relevant principles of Article 17 and that the concessions made by a Member under such agreements are generalized to all members in accordance with Article 16.

The Cuban Delegation reserved its position.

Paragraph 1.

The undertaking to negotiate regarding preferences necessarily implies that prior international commitments to grant particular preferences will not be permitted to frustrate the undertaking to negotiate. For this reason the provisions of subparagraph $1\ (a)$ of the New York draft have been omitted from the Charter as being implicit.

Obviously any agreement reached affecting preferences provided for in any prior commitment would require, in order to be implemented, such change in the latter as might be necessary to give effect to the agreement. This change would either have to be agreed between the parties to the prior commitment or, if they could not agree, the party wishing to make the change, in order to proceed, would have to terminate the prior commitment in accordance with its terms.