

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Page 54/55

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTH MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on
Thursday, 19 February 1970, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. SULE KOLO (Nigeria)

Subjects discussed: Expansion of International Trade

Speakers: Argentina
India
Portugal
Guyana
Czechoslovakia
Cuba
Greece
Madagascar
Ceylon
Malaysia

Mrs. ZAEFFERER DE GOYENECHE (Argentina) referred to the programme of work for the removal of obstacles to the expansion of trade. She said that the documentation assembled provided the basis on which progress in the preparatory work could be assessed. The preparatory work to identify the problems had been of considerable magnitude and it could only be due to lack of political will if the working calendar proposed by the Director-General was not kept.

The lack of political will prevailing in the field of agriculture was of special concern to her Government. Argentina produced and exported temperate zone agricultural products and faced the situation that, as an efficient producer, Argentina found itself in part isolated from world markets as a result of national policies followed by developed countries consisting of subsidies, tariffs and non-tariff barriers. In spite of the fact that these policies responded in some developed countries to social needs, it had to be recognized that they produced distortions in the international market and were costly in many ways to the developed countries. These policies gravely damaged Argentine exports, the majority of which were agricultural exports. Furthermore, it was incongruous that in times when hunger threatened two thirds of humanity, food production in exporting countries should be discouraged.

Regarding the report of the Agriculture Committee, the delegation of Argentina considered that the identification of problems and quantification of the incidence of certain measures was sufficiently advanced for examining possible solutions, despite the fact that further and more extensive analysis might be needed in some cases. However, it did not seem necessary to make uniform progress on all principal problems before solutions could be given to specific problems affecting certain products. In this respect she referred to the sector of vegetable oils and oilseeds.

Considering that the possibility to widen the scope of notifications and consultations existed, and that Argentina had reserved its right to take any action it deemed necessary to safeguard its interests, her delegation could support the resolution on concessional transactions contained in the report of the Agriculture Committee. Referring to dairy products, she said that the agreement reached did not cover the most important dairy products, but her Government hoped that solutions would be found in the near future.

The Argentine Government generally approved the programme of work contained in the report of the Agriculture Committee and hoped that contracting parties would rapidly seek mutually acceptable solutions, in particular for the problems affecting the trade of developing countries.

Regarding the report of the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products, she expressed her delegation's satisfaction that the stage of seeking solutions had been initiated. The work carried out in Group 1 was a stimulating example which should be continued in the other four Groups. She also commended the progress realized in the preparation of the Tariff Study. In this respect she hoped that the tabulation on imports from developing countries would be available by the middle of 1970. The Declaration of Intent served a most laudable purpose, though the interests of developing countries were provided for in Part IV and specifically paragraph 1 of Article XXXVII.

Concerning trade negotiations among developing countries, satisfactory progress had been recorded. The exercise itself was well worth the effort and it should bring reasonable benefits to developing countries and contribute to the overall expansion of trade.

The most valuable contribution of GATT to the Second Development Decade would be by proceeding towards a further stage in the liberalization of trade in general. This contribution would be all the more significant if all contracting parties, without exception, accepted Part IV. The Argentine delegation stressed that the commitments contained in Article XXXVII should be fully respected and that the mechanism for the consultations provided for therein should be established.

Her delegation supported the programme of work proposed by the Director-General for the coming months. Regarding the dates for future negotiations, the sooner would be the better. The Council should start considering the procedures and norms for the negotiations so that in the shortest time possible a beginning could be made for solving the important outstanding problems.

Mr. SWARUP (India) said that contracting parties had acquired great experience and had made sincere efforts to make progress in dealing with the trade problems of developing countries. However, there had also been a seeming lack of political will, at least on the part of some contracting parties, to facilitate and expedite concrete achievements. Many of the major difficulties confronting developing countries in the field of trade had therefore remained unresolved. He hoped that in the opening year of the Second Development Decade a decisive breakthrough would be achieved in the efforts to deal with these problems.

Referring to the report of the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products and the work of its five Groups he expressed the hope that by 15 June the Groups would be in a position to agree on meaningful solutions to the problems affecting exports of developing countries.

With respect to the Tariff Study, it was a matter of concern to his delegation that differences continued to exist on the tabulation that would provide a basis for analysis of the problems of developing countries while final agreements seemed to have been reached on the major issues relating to the other tabulations. It was therefore considered necessary that the work on the separate tabulation for developing countries should be brought up to par with the other tabulations.

He welcomed the Director-General's proposal that contracting parties should agree to refrain from introducing new or intensifying existing non-tariff barriers. In this connexion he recalled that considerable flexibility had been introduced in the GATT to enable developing countries to take certain measures to promote their economic development, and furthermore that the principle of non-reciprocity in trade negotiations between developed and developing countries had also been recognized. Developing countries should not be deprived of such flexibility.

The problems which arose in trade in agricultural products were complex and no solutions had been found in previous negotiations. Because of the adverse impact of price support policies on the exports of developing countries there was an urgent need to find solutions to these problems. Mr. Swarup maintained his reservation with respect to the new resolution recommended by the Agriculture Committee relating to concessional transactions. Furthermore, he expressed disappointment at the lack of progress made in the Agriculture Committee on the consideration of the problems of vegetable oils and oilseeds.

In connexion with the work of the Joint Working Group in the field of import restrictions, his delegation felt that three points should be kept in mind: (i) priority attention should be given to the removal of quantitative restrictions affecting the export trade of developing countries; (ii) contracting parties should not expect any reciprocal concessions from developing countries for the removal of these quantitative restrictions, and (iii) the work of the Joint Working Group should not adversely affect or slow down the useful work being done in the Group on Residual Restrictions.

The Indian delegation expressed its appreciation of the recent decision of the Government of France to participate in the work of the Committee on Trade and Development on a de facto basis, even though it had not yet formally ratified Part IV. At the same time he appealed to the French Government to accept Part IV as early as possible.

The Indian delegation felt that if the trade problems of developing countries had to be resolved on a lasting basis and to the mutual benefit of both developed and developing countries, some thought had to be given to the adoption by the developed contracting parties of a concrete and meaningful programme for using adjustment assistance measures to facilitate and promote imports from developing countries.

He also drew attention to the reservations made by developing countries on the Anti-Dumping Code. The Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices had emphasized the importance of wide and early acceptance of the Code. It was therefore necessary that the CONTRACTING PARTIES made arrangements to examine the reservations placed by the developing countries in order to facilitate their acceptance of the Code as soon as possible.

In connexion with the examination of the difficulties encountered in the implementation of Part IV, the discussions in the Committee on Trade and Development had revealed the areas in which further action could yield results. Recommendations by the CONTRACTING PARTIES along the following lines would, in the view of the Indian delegation, result in improvements in the operation of Part IV: (i) special attention should be paid to interpreting action under Article XXXVII:1 so as to ensure that such action was consistent with the objectives of Part IV; (ii) developed contracting parties should examine how far the justification given for the application of restrictions to products of interest to developing countries, in terms of their existing legislation, was correct and, particularly, whether such legislation was mandatory; (iii) the developed contracting parties should give special consideration to their obligations under Article XXXVII:1 when imposing surcharges or taxes for fiscal or balance-of-payments reasons; (iv) the procedures regarding consultations under Article XXXVII:2 needed elaboration.

He paid a special tribute to the Trade Negotiations Committee of Developing Countries for the efforts made to get the negotiations among the developing countries under way. His delegation had been pleased to learn that after long discussions general agreement had been reached on the ground rules and procedures that would govern these negotiations. He hoped that in the coming months these negotiations would gain added momentum, and that it might be possible to complete them in the near future, preferably before the next session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. He appealed to other developing countries to indicate their decision to join in these negotiations.

He also expressed his delegation's appreciation for the understanding shown by contracting parties towards the Agreement concluded by his Government and the Government of Yugoslavia and the United Arab Republic. It was the intention to consider by appropriate negotiations to incorporate the Agreement into any wider arrangement which might result from the trade negotiations among developing countries.

Mr. SIQUEIRA FREIRE (Portugal) stated that his delegation would continue to make its contribution to the current programme of work and to the ultimate objectives.

He reaffirmed that Portugal was in agreement with the line taken by the Agriculture Committee as regards the method of analysis and the outline of the problems involved, but at the same time he pointed out that it was essential to pay special attention to products which were of fundamental importance for the economies of certain countries even if they did not have a decisive influence on world trade as a whole.

As regards quantitative restrictions, he recalled that at the twenty-fifth session his delegation had implicitly come closer to the views of the other contracting parties which had at that time expressed a preference for a procedure based on existing machinery and had quoted in particular the structural and social difficulties underlying a good many of the quantitative restrictions applied by Portugal. However, since the Council had adopted a different approach, his delegation would be prepared to take part in the work of the Joint Working Party on the basis of the procedures which had been unanimously accepted.

Mr. Siqueira Freire referred to the interest with which his delegation followed the work of the contracting parties in their efforts to take account of the specific problems and different stages of development of different economies as well as the special situations of certain countries or groups of countries.

His delegation recognized that the Director-General had correctly analyzed the situation as a whole and appreciated the fact that he had drawn attention to certain priorities to be established. He noted that the secretariat considered that the conditions for moving from the technical preparatory phase to the political negotiating phase had now been met.

He had noted that the Director-General had said in his concluding remarks that the adoption of measures to give an impetus to economic growth were all the more necessary because by the end of 1971 the stimulating effects of the results of the Kennedy Round would begin to wear off and the forecast for 1970 indicated that there would be a serious slackening in the growth of international trade.

Mr. AUGUSTIN (Guyana) commenting on proposed new negotiations said that despite the overall benefits which accrued to international trade from the Kennedy Round, there were serious limitations, particularly with regard to agricultural products and other commodities of interest to the developing countries. His

Government hoped that these shortcomings would be taken into consideration in any future negotiations. His delegation favoured a greater utilization of international commodity agreements where there might be difficulties in negotiating tariff reductions to the mutual satisfaction of all parties concerned, and that of the developing countries in particular.

With regard to import restrictions he stated that his Government's policy was governed by immediate considerations of its balance-of-payments position, problems of unemployment, and necessities of industrial and agricultural expansion and diversification. Nevertheless, his Government had always taken into consideration the articles of GATT, which permitted the introduction of such import restrictions. He gave a short outline of recent trends in the trade of his country. In spite of an expansion in value of exports his country was still confronted with an unfavourable trade gap. The narrow export base made the question of export diversification and import substitution of vital interest, both for balance-of-payments reasons and to provide avenues for employment. He added that in view of these problems it had been necessary to resort to import restrictions. He stressed that while his delegation was favourably disposed towards the proposed Declaration of Intent, such a Declaration should bear in mind Article XXXVII of the General Agreement.

He remarked that his Government considered outward-looking free-trade areas and customs unions as media for expanding international trade, and had therefore been one of the founders of the Caribbean Free Trade Association. This grouping had already led to a marked increase in intra-regional trade; and it was apparent that its programme of industrial location would have trade-creation effects for third countries. He expressed the hope that Guyana's major traditional trading partners which had been historic areas of destination for its exports and which were contemplating membership of regional trading blocs, would bear in mind the likely effects of such membership on the social and economic structures of his country.

His Government welcomed the proposed system of generalized preferences and expressed the wish that in its final form it would be pragmatic and practical in the sense that there would be a clear distinction between different classes of developing countries, and that it would include adequate safeguards against the likely effects to some developing countries of reductions in preferential margins for exports to preferential markets.

In conclusion, he expressed the appreciation of his Government for the assistance rendered by the International Trade Centre in the field of training in export promotion. He expressed the wish, however, that the training programme, which was intended mainly for government officials, would in the future also provide assistance to small and new manufacturers.

Mr. BENES (Czechoslovakia), stated that his country had always supported actions in GATT aimed at the liberalization of international trade. It had therefore, subscribed to the Trade Expansion Programme adopted by CONTRACTING PARTIES at the twenty-fourth session and had participated in the preparatory work undertaken in the three main committees. His country would continue to participate in the further stages of the work in the same spirit.

He stated that the most important achievement in the liberalization of tariffs had been the Kennedy Round, although even this action had left some problems unsolved in the field of tariffs. Important items had been excluded from the linear reduction and some peak tariffs remained, even in countries with relatively low tariffs. Furthermore, there remained cases of tariff preferences amongst developed countries which considerably hampered imports from most-favoured-nation countries, although the full implementation of the results of the Kennedy Round had contributed to reducing these preferential margins.

He noted that after the Kennedy Round, attention had been focused on the reduction and elimination of non-tariff barriers, which was understandable. He felt that quantitative restrictions applied inconsistently with GATT rules represented the most acute problem of all non-tariff barriers. He therefore, welcomed the creation of a Joint Working Group to deal with the question of quantitative restrictions on imports of both industrial and agricultural products. He expressed confidence that despite the many difficulties involved, the work of the Group would contribute to a satisfactory solution of the problem.

In dealing with the problems of further action on both tariff and non-tariff barriers he felt that priority should be given to the particular problems of developing countries.

His Government was prepared to participate in an internationally agreed system of general, non-discriminatory, temporary and non-reciprocal preferences in favour of developing countries.

In conclusion, he stated that the accession of countries not yet parties to the General Agreement would contribute towards the expansion of international trade, and stressed that solutions be found to allow countries with different economic systems to accede on an equal footing with other contracting parties as regards the implementation of the General Agreement.

Mr. GARCIA INCHAUSTEGUI (Cuba), said that international trade had expanded in 1969, but the share of developing countries had decreased. Prospects for 1970 were not inspiring and in view of the trend the trade of developing countries would fare worse.

In spite of Part IV and the general principles approved in UNCTAD, international co-operation in the field of trade in favour of economic development had remained an unaccomplished objective of the international community. GATT could not make progress towards solutions that were mutually acceptable, so that principles such as those embodied in Part IV could not be implemented without the political will to do so. For these reasons, developing countries were forced to depend on realistic development policies and the control of their resources rather than on international co-operation. Moreover, any increase in the trade of developing countries would have to be supported by structural changes and modernization of industries, in order to make developing countries competitive in the world market.

He considered that systems of price support for products of interest to developing countries were contrary to the General Agreement and specifically to Part IV. He expressed concern at the proliferation of preferential agreements between developed and developing countries which were in contradiction with the promise to grant general non-discriminatory preferences.

He expressed his support for trade negotiations among developing countries. He was convinced that any benefits that would ensue from such negotiations would be extended to all developing contracting parties, pursuant to Articles I and XXXVII of the General Agreement.

With reference to non-tariff barriers, he noted that those affecting the trade of developing countries had only been partially identified so that further identification of such barriers was necessary and priority should be given to their elimination. He also felt that due attention should be given to the provisions of Article XXXVII. He supported the Declaration of Intent and the fact that agricultural products were included therein.

Regarding the activities of the Committee on Trade and Development he felt there was a need to analyse differential tariff rates affecting products of interest to developing countries and the effects of specific duties on such products. He proposed an examination of breaches of the provisions of Part IV by a panel of experts. He also supported the creation of a Joint Group on Import Restrictions that would give priority to the identification of barriers to the trade of developing countries.

He stressed that his Government had notified the embargo which the United States had applied to Cuba, as a non-tariff barrier to the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products, and as a breach of the General Agreement to the Committee on Trade and Development.

He supported the work of the International Trade Centre. Its tasks in the field of export promotion were of such importance to developing countries that it was necessary to consider giving the Centre greater budgetary support for its expanding activities.

Mr. ZACOPOULOS (Greece) referred to the expansion of international trade and stressed the great efforts which Greece had made and the sacrifices which she had accepted so that her economy should be successfully developed. His delegation was therefore particularly able to appreciate the special situation of developing countries and the unquestioned need to grant them special treatment.

With regard to the work of the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products, Greece was prepared to accept the suggestion made for a detailed study of tariff questions and of non-tariff and para-tariff barriers with a view to finding concrete measures that would yield results satisfactory to all countries and particularly to the developing countries. From this point of view a Declaration of Intent would obviously mean a vital step forward.

Mr. Zacopoulos said that Greece was very interested in the work of the Agriculture Committee. He stressed the constant efforts which his country had made to adjust the structure of its agricultural economy. This was obviously a long-term policy, and in the meantime markets had to be found for surplus agricultural products from Greece; hence the interest which his country took in everything that GATT was doing which might ensure the orderly marketing of its agricultural products.

Greece was ready to collaborate with any competent body with a view to arriving at concrete proposals and indicating practical measures which could usefully be taken.

As regards increasing Greek trade with other developing countries, Mr. Zacopoulos stated that Greece had already been in touch with several countries with a view to exchanging lists of products on which mutual concessions could be granted by way of tariff reductions or other commercial advantages.

Greece was also greatly interested in the GATT training programme, which would enable it to train officers with the theoretical and practical ability to help develop its commercial policy. He suggested that consideration be given to the possibility of receiving a larger number of candidates in this programme.

Mr. RAZAFINDRABE (Madagascar) described the efforts which his country had made during the sixties to become integrated in international trade, including its efforts to safeguard its traditional markets, to seek new markets and to meet the difficulties resulting from world price trends and the requirements of international trade practices and techniques. Noting that his country would encounter the same difficulties over the next ten years, he said that Madagascar would pursue its efforts with a view to this difficult integration.

With reference to the Agreement of Association signed at Yaoundé in 1969, Mr. Razafindrabe stressed on the one hand the continuation of the free-trade area of the European Economic Community and that of the eighteen associated African and Malagasy States and on the other hand the continuation of financial and technical co-operation. He stressed that these provisions of the Agreement

which relate to promoting the industrialization of his country, referred not only to horizontal diversification but also to vertical diversification of its economy as well as to protection of its infant industries.

After giving some figures on trade between his country and the European Economic Community the speaker went on to show how this trade did not merely direct trade towards the European Economic Community but that it had also helped to open the doors of the economy of Madagascar towards the outside world as a whole. He also emphasized the importance of trade relationships between developing countries, and particularly the African countries, and referred to the efforts that had been made to develop commodity agreements. He trusted that international co-operation would contribute to developing this trade.

Madagascar produced a wide range of tropical and temperate products and also possessed mining resources which held great promise but which so far had presented more problems than advantages, more especially as regards a certain category of products. With regard to industry in Madagascar he stated that industrial production had doubled in value from 1964 to 1968 and at present accounted for 20 per cent of total domestic production. His country was counting on the understanding of the other countries concerned in efforts to reach mutually acceptable solutions for the problem of foreign markets for their industrial products and their processed agricultural products, considering that the countries concerned were among the least developed and the youngest in the international community.

In conclusion, Mr. Razafindrabe referred to the problems arising from a deterioration in terms of trade - a question on which public opinion in Madagascar was particularly sensitive.

Mr. SAMARANAYAKE (Ceylon) said that the past year had been a period of unprecedented expansion in world trade; however, the developing countries' share in this increasing volume of trade had been diminishing. It was in this optic that the programme of expansion of trade should be examined.

His delegation had participated in the work of the three main Committees and agreed in principle with the conclusions reached by the three Committees as to the manner in which to proceed with the work.

The work of the Committee on Trade and Development was crucial to Ceylon. Action in the three Committees should be co-ordinated and move forward together. The problem of non-tariff barriers should be attacked both in the field of industry and of agriculture. His delegation therefore supported the establishment of a Joint Working Group on Import Restrictions agent of the three Committees.

He recalled the Director-General's words on the responsibility of GATT vis-à-vis the developing countries: "To secure for the developing countries substantially increased export earnings through better and more assured conditions of access to world markets for their export products". World trade figures

showed that insufficient progress had been made in the achievement of this desirable and necessary goal. Much remained to be done; he referred especially to the problem of high tariffs in certain sectors of industrial products and also to the problem of differential duties between raw materials and semi-manufactured and manufactured products.

Referring to the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products, he expressed the hope that it would give priority attention to products of interest to developing countries. In this connexion his delegation welcomed the Draft Declaration of Intent for a standstill on the introduction of non-tariff barriers. However, the Declaration should apply to the developed countries, and their acceptance of it should be subject to their obligations to developing countries as provided for in Article XXXVII:1.

Concerning the Tariff Study, he hoped that the methodological problems connected with analyzing the particular trade problems of developing countries, which had delayed the experts from proceeding with their task, would be satisfactorily settled at an early date.

Meaningful solutions were yet to be found to trade in tropical products. He recalled that although tea, a tropical product mainly produced in developing countries, had been included in the programme of action adopted at the Ministerial meeting in 1963, no substantial progress had yet been made towards the elimination of the customs duties, the quantitative restrictions and internal taxes on this commodity. Turning to the problem of tropical oils and oilseeds, he said that this matter had been shunted from one body to another. It was presently being dealt with in the Committee on Agriculture. Nigeria and Ceylon had made specific proposals for the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers in the trade in certain vegetable oils and oilseeds; no positive action had resulted and it had not even been possible to secure that developed countries agree to a standstill on introducing new restrictions on the trade in these products. His delegation did not subscribe to the view that in seeking the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers it was not possible to treat any particular sector in isolation and that a global approach should be followed. Products from the developing countries could and should be treated separately and priority attention could be accorded to the liberalization of trade in these products.

While his delegation had welcomed the introduction of Part IV, it noted that it had so far not yielded positive and tangible results. One of the principal objectives of the CONTRACTING PARTIES should be to ensure proper implementation of the obligations spelt out in Part IV. His delegation had taken part in the discussion in the Committee on Trade and Development on the need for establishing procedures for consultation regarding the implementation of these commitments. He thought that work should continue in the Committee to determine future procedures for consultations.

Developing countries had agreed to enter into a series of negotiations among themselves with a view to the expansion of trade through a system of preferences which would be applied on a non-discriminatory basis. His delegation had participated in these negotiations and it expected that they would finally result in an exchange of concessions covering both tariff and non-tariff barriers, applied on a multilateral basis and without discrimination between developing countries, in accordance with the most-favoured-nation principle which was basic to GATT.

He concluded by saying that the expansion of trade could not be separated from the problems of development. It was clear that GATT had a prominent rôle to play if the objectives of the Second Development Decade were to be realized. One of the means of realizing these aims was the generalized scheme of preferences presently under consideration in other fora. When the time came the GATT would have to examine how to accommodate such a scheme of preferences under its rules.

Mr. LAI (Malaysia) said that despite the general expansion of international trade, little progress had been made in the GATT to favour expansion of trade in tropical primary commodities. His country depended and continued to depend on the agricultural sector for its development and well-being. The situation was the same for most developing countries. He referred to the many statements that had been made on the shrinking share in world trade of developing countries. The problems facing developing countries producers of primary commodities were not new, but until recently they had been ignored. With the accession of developing countries, the GATT had to change so as to serve also the interests of developing countries. Hence, the inclusion of a Part IV to the Agreement. He expressed the view that Part IV was not the kind of text one usually found in international legally binding treaties. However, the problem was not to negotiate a new instrument but to make operative what already existed. He hoped that work with regard to the establishment of appropriate machinery for the implementation of Part IV would continue successfully.

His delegation welcomed the draft Declaration of Intent on non-tariff barriers. This declaration was in line with Part IV and particularly with its Article XXXVII. However, he would have preferred to have particular reference made to consideration of the interests of developing countries, when for unforeseen or compelling reasons measures had to be taken.

He agreed with the sectoral approach proposed for the work programme and that progress should be made on several fronts at the same time; however, he suggested that priority should be given to barriers to trade of tropical products. He also expressed disappointment that progress had not been possible in the elimination of tariffs on tropical vegetable oils. He shared the concern at agricultural support policies which created large surpluses. He was particularly concerned at the large surpluses of butter which were detrimental to

the trade in tropical vegetable oils. He was furthermore concerned about the possibility of an internal tax that might be imposed by the European Economic Community on vegetable oils; this would have the most serious impact on trade in tropical vegetable oils.

Most tropical agricultural commodities faced some form of trade barriers; one such commodity was natural rubber. For heeding the advice that this product should be made more competitive both in price and quality, Malaysia now found that duties were imposed on improved forms of natural rubber.

He suggested that consideration could be given to the possibility, as a short-term measure and while the negotiations for elimination of non-tariff barriers were under way, that when prices for tropical primary commodities fell a temporary exemption of duty for a specified period could be applied in order to encourage demand for these commodities in the consuming markets.

Referring briefly to the International Trade Centre, Mr. Lai expressed his delegation's appreciation for the important contribution the Centre was making to help the developing countries export their products.

His delegation supported a second round of negotiations for the removal of barriers to trade. While his country had gained little from previous rounds of negotiations it was encouraged by the statement by the United States that in any negotiations for the reduction of trade barriers, special treatment should be given to the export interests of developing countries. He was pleased that GATT was now ready to move from the phase of study and investigation to that of seeking possibilities for concrete action. His delegation would fully participate in the work that lay ahead.

The meeting adjourned at 5.30 p.m.