The Seventh Session of the Contracting Parties to the GATT was held at Geneva, from 2 October to 10 November 1952, inclusive. At the beginning of the Session Mr. Johan Melander, Director of Commercial Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo, was re-elected Chairman. Mr. John A. Tonkin, Director of Marketing, Department of Commerce and Agriculture, Canberra, was re-elected Vice-Chairman. The Seventh Session was, so to speak, one of the regular business meetings of the representatives of the governments which are contracting parties to the GATT. Apart from a comparatively restricted negotiation between the Federal Republic of Germany and Austria, no tariff negotiations were undertaken during the Session.

The full list of contracting parties, governments represented at the Session by observers and intergovernmental organizations represented is given on the final page of this survey.

During the Session the Contracting Parties set up a Panel on Complaints and eight working parties to consider, respectively, the International Chamber of Commerce Resolutions, the Reduction of Tariff Levels, the Tariff Schedules, the waivers requested by the six countries members of the European Coal and Steel Community, Balance of Payments Import Restrictions, the Budget, the Application of Ceylon under Article XVIII, and the Netherlands Action under Article XXIII:2. These matters are all referred to in this survey.

In the survey which follows a rough division has been made into:

(a) Items arising out of the operation of the GATT, including items falling under the Complaints Procedure.

(b) Tariffs and Tariff Negotiations.

(c) Miscellaneous items, proposed by governments and non-governmental organizations.

(d) The Administration of the GATT.

No attempt has been made to place the items in order of importance.
Items arising out of the operation of the Agreement and its protocols

BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS CONSULTATIONS HELD UNDER ARTICLE XII:4(b) AND ARTICLE XIV:1(g)

The Contracting Parties held consultations with a number of governments on the import restrictions which they apply for the purpose of safeguarding their balance of payments and monetary reserves. Participating in these consultations were Australia, Ceylon, France, Italy, Netherlands, Pakistan and the United Kingdom. The consultations with Italy and the Netherlands took place in connection with the discriminatory application of such import restrictions; those with France and Pakistan concerned the measures taken by them in recent months to intensify their import restrictions; and those with the other three countries, namely Australia, Ceylon and the United Kingdom, related to both of these aspects of their import restrictions.

As provided for in the General Agreement the Contracting Parties consulted fully with the International Monetary Fund and representatives of the Fund participated in the consultations conducted by the Contracting Parties.

The Consultations were successfully concluded after a full and frank discussion in which the governments concerned readily provided the information required by the Contracting Parties and opinions were freely exchanged.

The Contracting Parties have made arrangements to carry out similar consultations with Brazil, Chile, Finland, New Zealand, Southern Rhodesia, Sweden and the Union of South Africa. These consultations have been initiated in accordance with the provisions of GATT and will be continued by the Contracting Parties at a later convenient time.

ACCESSION OF JAPAN

In July 1952 the Government of Japan notified its desire to negotiate for accession to GATT under the special procedure approved at the Sixth Session for the holding of tariff negotiations inter-sessationally between a country wishing to accede to the General Agreement and those contracting parties which wished to negotiate with her. A number of contracting parties indicated that owing to the importance of Japan in international trade they considered that the application should be examined at a session of the Contracting Parties before any further action was taken on the application. At this Session the Contracting Parties, following a discussion (press release GATT/81) of the problems raised by Japan's application, decided that the conditions and timing under which the Japanese application could be pursued should be referred to an intersessional committee (for full text of the Decision see press release GATT/83). In order to take advantage of the presence of Japanese representatives at the Seventh Session, the members of the Ad Hoc Committee for Agenda and Intersessional Business which existed between the Sixth and Seventh Sessions met the Japanese representatives in order to obtain information which would be useful to any future committee considering the Japanese application.
At the end of the Session, the date of 2 February 1953 was decided upon for the meeting of the new Intersessional Committee to pursue this question.

**SOUTH AFRICA - SOUTHERN RHODESIA CUSTOMS UNION**

In 1949 the Contracting Parties decided that South Africa and Southern Rhodesia were entitled to claim the benefits of Article XXIV relating to the formation of customs unions. Under Article XXIV the Contracting Parties are mainly concerned with two points: first, whether the interim arrangements between two or more countries which intend to form a customs union are likely to result in the formation of a full customs union, and, secondly, whether the interim period is a reasonable one.

At this Session the Contracting Parties have taken note of the Third Annual Report submitted by the Southern African Customs Union Council and of a report by the two governments on the progress achieved in the first three years towards the elimination of tariffs and other restrictive regulations of commerce between the two countries, and towards the application of a common tariff and other regulations to the trade of other contracting parties. The representative of South Africa pointed out the progress which has been achieved in the alignment of the tariffs and referred to the agreement that had been reached on regulations and customs practices.

**NICARAGUA - EL SALVADOR FREE-TRADE AREA**

At the Sixth Session the Contracting Parties examined the Treaty of August 1951 between Nicaragua (a contracting party) and El Salvador (not a contracting party) for the establishment of a free-trade area. They decided that Nicaragua was entitled to resort to the provisions of Article XXIV relating to free-trade areas. Nicaragua has undertaken to furnish annual reports on the action taken in respect of certain articles of the Treaty under which the right to impose quantitative restrictions on certain specified imports and to make changes in the lists of products entitled to customs exemption when exported and imported from one country into the other is reserved.

At this Session the Contracting Parties took note of the first annual report submitted by Nicaragua and of a statement by the representative of El Salvador concerning commercial arrangements between the two countries.

**AUTHORITY GRANTED, UNDER ARTICLE XVIII, FOR CEYLON TO IMPOSE CERTAIN ADDITIONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES**

Article XVIII provides that a contracting party may obtain authority from the Contracting Parties to impose non-discriminatory, protective measures for the purpose of economic development. Ceylon is one of the contracting parties which have been authorized under that Article temporarily to maintain or impose such measures. At the Third Session the Contracting Parties granted authority for Ceylon to put into operation certain measures of import control under the Industrial Products Act No. 18, which was designed to facilitate the sale of certain local industrial products by regulating the importation of like commodities from abroad.
At this Session the Delegation of Ceylon requested the Contracting Parties, under Article XVIII:7, for authority to add an additional four products to the list of products for which a release had already been granted. The application was examined by a Working Party and the Contracting Parties decided to grant the authority requested by Ceylon.

PROTOCOLS AND SCHEDULES

At each Session the Contracting Parties undertake to examine the current status of the Protocols, in particular those which lack the acceptance needed to bring them into force. At this Session they have had to consider a further extension of the time limit for signature of the Torquay Protocol by Brazil, Nicaragua, Korea and the Philippines, and the fact that Uruguay has not yet signed the Annecy or Torquay Protocols. The Contracting Parties decided to grant the following extended time limits:

(a) for signing the Torquay Protocol,
   Brazil and Nicaragua, to 31 December 1952;
   Korea and Philippines, to 21 May 1953;
(b) for signing the Annecy and Torquay Protocols,
   Uruguay, to 30 April 1953.

As at previous Sessions the Contracting Parties considered rectifications which any contracting party wished to have made in their Schedules of tariff duty concessions, and a Protocol of Rectifications and Modifications to incorporate these changes was drawn up and opened for signature.

Items falling under "Complaints" Procedures

BRAZILIAN INTERNAL TAXES

At the Third Session the Contracting Parties considered a complaint by France, supported by other contracting parties concerning an increase in the element of discrimination in certain Brazilian internal taxes against certain French, United Kingdom and United States exports, such as cognac, aperitifs, watches and clocks, beer and cigarettes. Subsequently Brazil gave an assurance that a proposal for amending the legislation would be submitted to the Congress. At the Fifth Session the Contracting Parties, at the request of Brazil, examined a draft law modifying the present legislation on consumption taxes which was being considered for submission to the Brazilian legislature, and it was considered that the draft law would, on the whole, remove the internal tax discrimination introduced since 1947 and bring Brazil's consumption tax legislation into conformity with the Agreement as applied under the Protocol of Provisional Application.
At this Session the delegate of Brazil informed the Contracting Parties that a commission had been appointed to revise the Brazilian tariff in order to bring it into closer accord with the Brazilian economy and to place the adherence of Brazil to GATT on a more realistic basis. He stated that the question of the internal taxes was parallel to these other questions and he requested and the Contracting Parties agreed that the matter be maintained on the agenda for the Eighth Session.

UNITED KINGDOM PURCHASE TAX

The complaint which was made at the Fifth Session that certain elements of the United Kingdom Utility/Purchase Tax system were having a protective and discriminatory effect contrary to Article III, has been withdrawn and the Contracting Parties have agreed that the United Kingdom Purchase Tax arrangements, as modified by the introduction of the "D" scheme, remove the discrimination and thus bring the United Kingdom Purchase Tax system into full conformity with the provisions of the GATT (press release GATT/79).

UNITED STATES IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON DAIRY PRODUCTS

At the Sixth Session the delegates of the Netherlands and Denmark supported by the delegates of Italy, New Zealand, Norway, Australia, France and Canada, complained that the effect of the restrictions on imports introduced by the United States under Section 104 of the United States Defense Production Act constituted within the meaning of Article XXIII a nullification or impairment of concessions granted by the United States and that the restrictions constituted an infringement of Article XI. The restrictions came into effect on 9 August 1951. The Contracting Parties recognized that the complaints were justified, but in view of the serious efforts being made by the Executive Branch of the United States Government to have Section 104 repealed, the Contracting Parties agreed to leave the matter on the agenda.

When the United States Defense Production Act was renewed in July 1952 Section 104 was retained with certain amendments. Subsequently, pursuant to the amendments, the United States Government introduced several changes in the application of the restrictions on dairy products which had the effect of moderating their severity.

At the Seventh Session a number of delegations stated that their export trade in dairy products continued to be adversely affected by the United States regulations and that the maintenance of Section 104 was an infringement of GATT obligations. The Contracting Parties agreed that by not repealing Section 104 the United States was still infringing the obligations of the GATT. They noted that certain delegations reserved their rights to take compensatory measures if the United States restrictions were not lifted; and recommended that the United States Government should continue its efforts to secure the repeal of Section 104 as the only satisfactory solution of the problem. The item will remain on the agenda so that it can, if necessary, be considered at the Eighth Session: if, in the meantime, one or more countries desire to take retaliatory action it will be necessary to call a Special Session to consider whether the action which they wish to take is justifiable under Article XXIII.
The Delegation of the Netherlands proposed, under Article XXIII:2, to restrict its imports of wheat flour from the United States during 1953, to compensate for the damage suffered to Netherlands exports owing to the restriction imposed by Section 104. The Contracting Parties authorized the Netherlands to reduce, for the year 1953, from 72,000 to 60,000 metric tons the upper limit on imports of wheat flour from the United States.

The discussion of this item by the Contracting Parties is contained in press release GATT/90, the statements of the delegates of Netherlands, New Zealand, Denmark, Canada, Australia and the United States are in GATT/91.

**BELGIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON DOLLAR GOODS**

At the Sixth Session the United States and Canada complained that import restrictions by the Belgium-Luxemburg Economic Union had damaged their trade and that the matter should be dealt with by the Contracting Parties as a departure from obligations under the GATT. It was agreed not to pursue the matter further during the Sixth Session, bearing in mind an assurance from the Belgian delegation that the B.L.E.U. was not altering the fundamentals of its commercial policy, that Belgium intended to abide by the rules of GATT and that the duration of application of these dollar restrictions would be reduced to the strictest minimum.

In February 1952 the GATT Intersessional Committee appointed a working party to consider the matter but agreed to delay the calling of the working party until the International Monetary Fund should make available information on its consultation to be held with Belgium under Article XIV of the Fund’s Articles of Agreement. At the Seventh Session the Belgian Delegation informed the Contracting Parties that the Belgian Government felt that it was justified in proceeding in its return, albeit cautiously, to a régime of freedom from quantitative restrictions and that it proposed as a first step to institute shortly significant measures of relaxation in its dollar import restrictions.

The Delegations of the United States and Canada expressed their satisfaction with the Belgian proposals and agreed that no useful purpose would be served in exploring the problem further at the Seventh Session, pending the announcement of the details of the Belgian proposals in the next two or three months.

**BELGIUM’S "ALLOCATIONS FAMILIALES"**

A system providing for family allowances to workers is in force in Belgium by virtue of an Act of 4 August 1930. The system is financed by contributions imposed upon the Belgian employers, and in order to countervail these contributions a special tax of 7.5 per cent ad valorem is levied on products imported by the Belgian governmental, provincial and municipal authorities. Exemption from this import tax can be granted in the case of importation from countries where similar contributions are imposed upon the employers either by law or by collective agreements.

At the Sixth Session the Danish and Norwegian Governments pointed out that, as certain contracting parties have obtained an exemption from the tax (for the
reason stated above), they had requested the Government of Belgium to grant them similar treatment, claiming that their social legislation could not be considered less costly or less developed than the legislation in this field in Belgium. Nevertheless the Belgian Government had not yet found it possible to act in favour of the Danish or Norwegian requests for exemption from the special duty.

The Contracting Parties at the Sixth Session considered that the element of discrimination was not in conformity with Article I and -- in view of a request by the Delegation of Belgium for time to make the necessary administrative changes -- a delay was granted.

At the Seventh Session, the Belgian Delegation stated that, owing to legislative difficulties, there had been no change in the situation, but the Belgian Government was looking towards the preparation of a new draft law to be submitted to Parliament. The delegates of Denmark, Norway, Austria and Germany drew attention to the continuing discriminatory nature of the Belgian import charge. The Panel on Complaints examined the legal issues involved and concluded that the Belgian legislation on family allowances was inconsistent with provisions of the GATT and was based on a concept contrary to the spirit of the GATT. The Contracting Parties therefore recommended the Belgian Government to adopt without delay the measures necessary to remove the discrimination complained of, and requested information on this before the opening of the Eighth Session.

GREEK CUSTOMS DUTY COEFFICIENTS

The Greek Government applies differing "coefficients" to the specific duties in its customs tariff, for the conversion into paper drachmae of the metallic drachmae rates in which the duties are expressed. When the Greek Government conducted tariff negotiations at Annecy and Torquay, it agreed to bind against increase the coefficients applied before 1939 for the conversion of metallic drachmae rates into paper drachmae on items included in Schedule XXV, the Greek Schedule of tariff concessions. A decision taken by the Greek Cabinet on 10 July 1952 increased these coefficients on a number of products to levels in excess of those specified in the Greek Schedule.

At the Seventh Session the United Kingdom Government -- as well as other contracting parties interested -- maintained that the Greek decision constituted an infringement of Article II(i) while, at the same time, recognising that the Greek Government was encountering serious economic difficulties. The Greek Government agreed that this emergency measure taken in July to meet acute financial difficulties was not consistent with its GATT obligations, and the Greek delegation, when this matter was considered by the Panel on Complaints, undertook to re-establish before 1 July 1953 the levels of coefficients specified in the Greek Schedule to the GATT. The United Kingdom Delegation and the other interested delegations accepted this solution of the problem. The Contracting Parties took note of the undertaking given on behalf of the Greek Government, and asked the Greek Government to report on the measures taken to implement it.
GREEK SPECIAL IMPORT DUTY

On 27 November 1951 the Greek Government imposed a tax on certain imported goods. This tax, which led the French Government to raise the matter at the Seventh Session as contrary to the terms of Article III, was repealed on 31 December 1951. It was replaced by new regulations which were intended by the Greek Government indirectly to counteract the depreciation of the drachma. These regulations imposed a tax on foreign exchange to be collected by the Bank of Greece, half at the time of opening of the credit and half at the time of final settlement in foreign currency. The matter was discussed at a plenary meeting (press release GATT/86) and was referred to the Panel on Complaints.

The Panel found that there were many complicated issues involved and that there was not sufficient information available at the present time as to the nature of the tax system or the method of its application to enable the Panel to determine whether it fell within the terms of Article III, or within the terms of other GATT obligations. The Panel suggested and the Contracting Parties agreed that additional information should be requested regarding the operation of the Greek tax system in question. The Contracting Parties will also enquire from the International Monetary Fund whether their imposition of this tax constitutes a multiple currency practice. This procedure will, it is expected, enable the Contracting Parties to deal with the matter at the Eighth Session.

INCREASE IN UNITED STATES DUTY ON DRIED FIGS

The Delegation of Greece, supported by the Delegations of Italy and Turkey, drew attention to the effect on their export trade of the increase in the United States import duty on dried figs to 4½ cents per pound on 30 August 1952. (The former duty was 2½ cents per pound, which was a concession granted to Turkey at the 1951 Torquay negotiations). The United States Delegate expressed sympathy with the situation in the affected countries and accepted the obligation to consult with the delegations of those countries with a view to restoring the balance affected by the withdrawal of the concession.

Consultations were held and, as a result, the Contracting Parties adopted a Resolution, which was proposed by Greece, Turkey and the United States. Under the terms of the Resolution, (a) the United States Government has undertaken to request the Tariff Commission to review the facts in the matter as early as practicable and in any case in time for consideration of the results of such a review at the Eighth Session; (b) the Turkish Government has decided to apply to the trade of the United States provisional modifications in the rates of certain Turkish import duties, to be effective only for the period during which the United States continues the increased duty on dried figs; (c) the United States and Greece have initiated a study of the trade of the United States with Greece to determine whether the United States might make provisional concessions to compensate Greece.
NORWEGIAN COMPLAINT CONCERNING TREATMENT BY GERMANY OF SARDINES (BRI SLING)

A complaint by Norway to the effect that the Federal Republic of Germany is discriminating, contrary to GATT obligations, against Norwegian sardines (brisling) was referred, after a plenary discussion, to the Panel on Complaints. The substance of the complaint, under the headings of customs duty, import tax and discrimination, is set out in press release GATT/80. The Panel concluded that, although the measures taken by the German Government under the above headings were not inconsistent with the provisions of GATT, nevertheless the value of the tariff concessions which Norway obtained from Germany in the Torquay negotiations had been impaired. The Contracting Parties recommended the Federal Republic to consider ways and means to remove the competitive inequality which may exist between Norwegian sardines (brisling) and other types of sardines, and to consult with Norway on the results of their consideration. Both delegations accepted this recommendation and agreed to report at the Eighth Session. The conclusions of the Panel and the Recommendations of the Contracting Parties are set out in press release GATT/92.

PAKISTAN EXPORT FEE AND DUTY ON RAW JUTE

The Contracting Parties took note of the complaint by India against Pakistan concerning the export fee and duty on raw jute levied by Pakistan. It was agreed that if and when the Indian Government feels it necessary, having regard to any consultations which may be proceeding between the two Governments, to ask the Contracting Parties to proceed with the discussion of the substance of the complaint, it will be considered by the Intersessional Committee.

Tariffs and Tariff Negotiations

REDUCTION OF TARIFF LEVELS

At the Sixth Session the French Delegation put forward a plan that tariffs should be lowered by 30 per cent on a worldwide basis in three yearly stages of 10 per cent. This plan, presented by M. Pflimlin when Minister of Trade, comprised important differences from proposals submitted previously at Torquay in 1951 by the Benelux countries which were essentially directed towards a levelling of European tariffs.

A Working Party was set up to consider the reduction of tariff levels and earlier in 1952 a sub-group of the Working Party held three meetings and completed a report. This report, which elaborated the technical aspects of the French Plan, enabled the Working Party to consider the French proposal in its more general aspect and to examine whether and to what extent its main features would have to be adjusted in order to take into account the disparities between the economic and social conditions in different countries.

The Contracting Parties have noted the progress which has been made towards resolving the many problems arising from the plan for a general lowering of tariff levels and have instructed the Working Party to continue its studies, taking into account, in particular, some further proposals submitted by the French delegation at the Seventh Session.
In February 1952 the Council of Europe submitted to the Contracting Parties a Recommendation which had been adopted by the Consultative Assembly concerning the adoption of a common policy for lowering tariff barriers in Europe. This proposal was dealt with separately from the French plan and the Contracting Parties referred it to a group of customs experts. The report of the experts will be transmitted to the Council of Europe.

**ITALIAN PREFERENCES FOR LIBYAN PRODUCTS**

The Contracting Parties agreed at the Sixth Session to a request by the Government of Italy for authority to continue for one year to exempt from customs duties certain goods originating in and coming from Libya and imported into Italy. A request by the Italian Government, supported by the Government of Libya, for authority to continue special customs treatment towards certain Libyan products has been considered at this Session, and the Contracting Parties have agreed to grant, for a further period of three years, exemption from Italian Customs Duties for a definitive list of Libyan exports. (Press release GATT/76.) During this period, the Italian Government will submit annual reports on the operation of the special régime and the Government of Libya will submit annual reports on its plans for economic development.

**TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND AUSTRIA**

Tariff negotiations were initiated and completed between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Austria during the period of the Seventh Session. The agreement reached deals with certain reciprocal concessions additional to the tariff agreement which was concluded in 1951 within the framework of the Torquay Tariff Conference. It will come into force when it has been approved by the legislative bodies of the two countries.

**Miscellaneous Items, proposed by Governments and Non-Governmental Organizations**

**EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY: WAIVERS FROM GATT OBLIGATIONS**

On 18 April 1951, Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Luxembourg, Italy and the Netherlands concluded a Treaty constituting the European Coal and Steel Community and a Convention containing the transitional provisions. The Treaty came into force on 23 July 1952. Article 2 of the Treaty provides that the mission of the Community is to contribute to the economic expansion, the development of employment and the improvement of the standard of living in the participating countries through the establishment of a common market. The establishment of the common market involves the abolition as between the six countries of import and export duties, end of quantitative restrictions on the movement of coal and steel within the six countries of the Community.
The six member States of the Community are each contracting parties to GATT. They submitted to the Contracting Parties a request for a release from certain of their obligations under the GATT. This request concerned mainly the most-favoured-nation clause contained in GATT Article I and the rule of non-discrimination in Article XIII regarding the application of quantitative restrictions.

Following a general discussion in plenary session (press release GATT/77) the request of the six countries for a waiver under Article XXV (5)(a) was considered in detail by a Working Party. The report of the Working Party, including the Decision granting certain specific waivers was adopted by the Contracting Parties and the Decision was formally transmitted to the representative of Belgium (representing the six countries) and to a Member of the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community on 10 November 1952. (Notes on the waivers granted by the Contracting Parties, and on the principles on which the Decision is based are contained in press release GATT/102.)

INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RESOLUTIONS

The Thirteenth Congress of the International Chamber of Commerce, held in Lisbon in June 1951, passed a series of resolutions relating to the reduction of barriers to trade. Among them were resolutions dealing with the Valuation of Goods for Customs Purposes, Nationality of Manufactured Goods, Documentary Requirements, Consular Formalities, Formalities connected with Quantitative Restrictions, and Customs Treatment of Samples and Advertising Matter. These resolutions were submitted to the Contracting Parties.

At the Sixth Session the Contracting Parties set up a Working Party which prepared the text of a Draft Convention for the Purpose of facilitating the Importation of Commercial Samples and Advertising Material. The same Working Party also drew up Draft Recommendations on Consular Formalities and Draft Recommendations on Documentary Requirements for the Importation of Goods. The Draft Convention and the two sets of Draft Recommendations were circulated to governments and to the International Chamber of Commerce for intersessional study and comment.

At the Seventh Session, following detailed study by a Working Party, in consultation with representatives of the International Chamber of Commerce, the Contracting Parties

(a) adopted the text of a draft International Convention to facilitate the Importation of Commercial Samples and Advertising Material. In order to allow governments adequate time to examine the text of the draft Convention, it was agreed that the Convention should not be opened for signature until 1 February 1953. A detailed press release concerning the Samples Convention will be issued at that time.
(b) adopted a code of standard practices relating to Documentary Requirements for the Importation of Goods, and a code of standard practices relating to Consular Formalities. These two sets of standard codes will be published at Geneva in two or three weeks' time.

(c) adopted a Resolution regarding the application of import and export licensing restrictions in the case of existing contracts.

The Contracting Parties also carried a stage further their studies on Valuation and Nationality of Imported Goods, with a view to further consideration at a later Session.

UNITED STATES SUBSIDY ON EXPORT OF SULTANAS

The Greek Delegation drew attention to the fact that the United States Government has been, since 1949, subsidizing the domestic production of raisins (sultanas) in order to promote exports: the result being that Greece - a country with very few exportable items - was losing traditional markets. The Turkish Delegation also stressed the detrimental effect of the United States export subsidy on other producing countries. The discussion in plenary meeting which included points of general principle made by other delegations was summarized in press release GATT/87. The United States Delegation having expressed willingness to enter into consultations with the interested countries, bilateral consultations were initiated during the Session. These will be continued and the matter will be put on the agenda of the Eighth Session.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE AGREEMENT

As already stated the Contracting Parties re-elected Mr. Johan Melander and Mr. J.A. Tonkin as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

The Contracting Parties reviewed the arrangements for the continuing administration of the Agreement, including intersessional procedures. The Ad Hoc Committee for Agenda and Intersessional Business was re-established to operate between the Seventh and Eighth Sessions. The Committee will meet at Geneva on 2 February 1953.

The Contracting Parties agreed that the Eighth Session would open at Geneva on 17 September 1953.
Thirteen Contracting Parties to the General Agreement

| Australia | India  |
| Austria   | Indonesia |
| Belgium   | Italy   |
| Brazil    | Liberia |
| Burma     | Luxemburg |
| Canada    | Netherlands |
| Ceylon    | New Zealand |
| Chile     | Nicaragua |
| Cuba      | Norway   |
| Czechoslovakia | Pakistan |
| Denmark   | Peru     |
| Dominican Republic | Southern Rhodesia |
| Finland   | Sweden   |
| France    | Turkey   |
| German Federal Republic | Union of South Africa |
| Greece    | United Kingdom |
| Haiti     | United States |

Governments represented by Observers at the Seventh Session

| Colombia | Libya  |
| Costa Rica | Mexico   |
| El Salvador | Switzerland |
| Japan     | Yugoslavia |
| Korea     |          |

Intergovernmental Organizations represented at the Seventh Session

- United Nations
- International Monetary Fund
- International Labour Office
- Organization for European Economic Cooperation
- Council of Europe
- High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community
- European Customs Union Study Group

Representatives of the International Chamber of Commerce consulted with the working party which examined the ICC Resolutions.