The Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade met in informal session from 28 to 30 April. The Chairman was Mr. Carlos Besa (Chile).

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the current situation in international trade, and to review the work programme being carried out in GATT, having in mind the twenty-seventh session of the Contracting Parties to be held from 15 to 26 November 1971.

A constructive and wide-ranging exchange of views took place. Delegates found themselves in full agreement on the need to pursue and develop in all possible fields the present GATT programme of work in order to promote the further expansion of world trade.

They gave particular attention to the trade problems of developing countries. In this respect, they were assisted by a preliminary report from a special group, set up to indicate possible GATT action in this field, consisting of the Chairman of the Contracting Parties, the Council, and the Committee on Trade and Development.

Delegates were agreed that the discussions during the three days have constituted a useful beginning to the preparations for the twenty-seventh session of the Contracting Parties.