The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, having functioned now for five years, I think it is not improper that my delegation should make some remarks about the importance of that body for Indonesia. To show that Indonesia is deeply interested in this body, it is perhaps not amiss to recall that even during the uncertain time of her struggles for independence, Indonesia took the trouble to be represented at the Havana Conference. This fact, I hope, was sufficient to demonstrate our interest in the international organization of world economics. It is for this very same reason that, after the securance of her sovereignty, Indonesia unhesitatingly decided to join GATT.

Indonesia will always give her full cooperation and utmost assistance to any international body aiming at the expansion of world trade, improvement of living standards, and trying to create possibilities for more employment.

It is at the moment, however, most unfortunate that my country is still facing a difficult situation in concentrating efforts towards the rehabilitation of all that World War 2 and the subsequent struggle for independence have destroyed. This delicate position has forced Indonesia to be very cautious in the direction of her financial matters. We, in the first instance, have to fence off inflation. Notwithstanding that, great care has always been taken to follow a policy which ensured the possibility to observe largely international obligations, not least those concerning GATT. We would be only too pleased to cooperate in the elimination of disequilibria of trade and balance of payments. But with a view to her position, Indonesia can hardly be expected to take the initiative. Such an initiative is the privilege of the industrialized countries, which enjoy better economic conditions. It is to be hoped that this highly desirable initiative will be undertaken by them and that, in the sense of the remark of the Chairman in his opening address, they will be courageous and wise in their policy. For, by doing so, they would undoubtedly contribute widely to a general improvement of the whole human welfare. The result of such an initiative would certainly lead to the expansion of world trade, thus enabling also the underdeveloped countries to derive profits. I do, of course, not mean that underdeveloped countries should only acquire benefits, but from their side should also make efforts to offer facilities according to their particular economic structure in the light of improving world trade.

Speaking about advantages derived as a Contracting Party from the General Agreement, I regret to state that these advantages have not been numerous for Indonesia.
Positive advantages derived from the Agreement have always been of a restricted nature, as Tariff concessions are not playing a big role for the export of primary commodities, such as produced by Indonesia, as in the case of manufactured goods.

The General Agreement would be of greater value and immediate importance for Indonesia, if necessary arrangements could be made to stabilize world market prices for primary commodities.

During the past two years we witnessed how unfavourably the economy of our country was affected by the unstable prices on the world market for primary commodities. This applies foremost to rubber, the most important export product of Indonesia.

As a matter of fact, this unstable world market for primary commodities has the special attention of underdeveloped countries as a whole in the last summer session of ECOSOC. The very unfortunate influence of highly fluctuating prices for primary commodities on the underdeveloped countries was unanimously recognized and investment of foreign capital accompanied by some measures to stabilize prices were considered of utmost importance.

Being a fervent adherer of international organisation, my country would very much appreciate every expansion in this line.

Our big aim still remains the establishing of an ITO., even if somewhat differing from the original conception.

Meanwhile the GATT must be made ever stronger, which means that as many countries as possible should be enabled to cooperate. For this reason it is desirable that Japan which has been trying for more than one year to accede to the GATT should be given such an opportunity, even though on a provisional basis. Should such be the case, it is obvious that Japan should realize that she can not only derive profits from her membership, but also has to be ready to prove to be adamant in the observation of her obligations in general, thus showing from her side also willingness to offer facilities, which will be of general benefit to all Contracting Parties.

My delegation maintains this view, keeping in mind the far reaching world business which Japan has. It is however not the slightest intention of my Government to minimize unpleasant experiences some Contracting Parties had with Japanese prewar trade. We support Japanese accession, as we think it is fair to give her a chance to prove her goodwill and become a valuable member of GATT.

It is for this analogous reason that my delegation last year supported the request of Italy for a special customs treatment of goods originating from Libya, this giving Italy the fair chance to prove that such is not only to the mutual advantage of Italy and Libya, but perhaps indirectly to other Contracting Parties. These decisions perhaps are sidesteps in our effort toward a multilateral agreement, which one day could eventually lead to the attainment of Wendell Wilkie's "One World". MORE
Mr. Chairman, these are the few general remarks my delegation wished to make at the beginning of this Eighth Session. We hope, during the treatment of the various points of the agenda, to come back with more details.

Thank you.