The Eighth Session of the Contracting Parties to the GATT was held at Geneva from 17 September to 24 October inclusive. At the opening of the Session the chairmanship of Mr. Johan Melanør, Norway, was extended until the end of the Session and Mr. Akhtar Husain, Pakistan, was elected Vice-Chairman for the duration of the Session. At the close of the Session Mr. I. Dana Wilgress, Canada, was elected Chairman and Mr. Fernando Garcia Oldini, Chile, and Mr. Gunnar Seidenfaden, Denmark, were elected first and second Vice-Chairmen, respectively. The full list of contracting parties and of governments and intergovernmental agencies represented at the Session by observers, is given on the final page of this survey.

During the Session the Contracting Parties established working parties to consider, respectively, the prolongation of the assured life of the Schedules (Article XXVIII); the request of the United Kingdom for a limited waiver of obligations under Article I; the application of Japan for provisional accession; the budget for 1953 and 1954; valuation and nationality of goods, and consular formalities; rectifications of tariff schedules; the request of Australia for a waiver to assist the economic development of Papua and New Guinea; balance-of-payments import restrictions; and the first annual report of the European Coal and Steel Community.

At the opening of the Session the Chairman and the following leaders of delegations made policy speeches: Mr. C.D. Howe, Canadian Minister of Trade and Commerce; Mr. Samuel C. Waugh, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs; Mr. Peter Thorneycroft, President of the United Kingdom Board of Trade; M. Bernard Lafay, French Secretary of State for Economic Affairs; Mr. Constantin Papayannis, Greek Minister of Finance; Dr. Ludwig Erhard, Minister for Economic Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany; Shri D.P. Karmarkar, Indian Minister of Commerce; Dr. A.Y. Helmi, Minister for Indonesia in Switzerland; Mr. V.A. Clark, Australia; Mr. Joac Alberto de Barros, Brazilian Minister in charge of Foreign Economic Affairs; and Mr. Karel Svec, Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Trade. (All these speeches are available as Press Releases.) The remarks of the Chairman at the close of the Session are also available in Press Release GATT/147.
Items arising out of the operation of the GATT

BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS CONSULTATIONS HELD UNDER ARTICLE XII AND ARTICLE XIV

In accordance with certain specific provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the Contracting Parties have held at their present Session consultations with a number of governments on particular aspects of 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, Chile, Finland, Pakistan, Sweden, Southern Rhodesia and the United Kingdom.

These provisions for consultations with individual governments are one of the special features of the General Agreement, and the purpose of consultations on import restrictions is to afford an opportunity for the exchange of views on the problems facing the countries imposing restrictions and the difficulties which were created for exporting countries by the restrictions. The Contracting Parties discussed both the financial basis and the policy and administration of the restrictions in question. The consultations were concluded after a full and frank discussion and the representatives of the governments whose restrictions were the subject of the consultations indicated that they had taken full note of the views expressed by other contracting parties and that these views, as well as certain specific requests, would be conveyed to their respective governments for consideration.

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. In each of their consultations, the Contracting Parties had before them and made extensive use of background material prepared in the Fund in connection with its consultations under Article XIV of the Fund Agreement. They also took into account the results of the Fund's consultations with the countries concerned.

ACCESSION OF JAPAN

The Contracting Parties approved by a vote of 27 to 0 (six countries abstaining) a Decision inviting the Government of Japan to participate in sessions of the Contracting Parties and of their subsidiary bodies. In taking this Decision the Contracting Parties took into consideration (a) the fact that it had not been practicable for the Contracting Parties in present circumstances to proceed with Japan's request to accede to the GATT in accordance with the provisions of Article XXXIII (i.e. through tariff negotiations), (b) the fact that they are desirous meanwhile of associating the Government of Japan with their discussions and deliberations (Press Release GATT/144).
A Declaration was also drawn up and opened for signature to the effect that, pending the accession of Japan following tariff negotiations, the commercial relations between any country signing the Declaration and Japan will be governed by the provisions of the GATT. The Declaration remains open for signature until 31 December 1953. By 26 October the following governments had signed the Declaration: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, India, Italy, Netherlands, Turkey, United States and Japan.

**UNITED KINGDOM REQUEST FOR A WAIVER OF CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS UNDER ARTICLE I, GENERAL MOST-FAVOURED-NATION TREATMENT**

The Contracting Parties took a Decision on the request of the United Kingdom Government for facilities, consistent with the objectives of the General Agreement, to relieve them of the need, under the rules of Article I regarding tariff preferences, to impose duties on duty-free goods from the Commonwealth as and when they may have occasion in the future to increase the unbound duties on foreign goods. In asking for these facilities, the United Kingdom made it clear that it was not their intention to use them for the purpose of diverting trade away from foreign to Commonwealth countries.

The Contracting Parties at the same time approved procedures for consultation and, where necessary, arbitration as to whether particular tariff and preference changes would be within the terms of the Decision.

The effect of the Decision is to enable the United Kingdom to increase unbound duties without being obliged at the same time to impose duties on Commonwealth goods; but this is subject to two conditions: (i) if the effect of not putting a duty on the Commonwealth goods would be to cause substantial diversion of trade from foreign to Commonwealth suppliers, the increase of preference would in fact frustrate the objectives of Article I of the Agreement and the Decision would then not apply in this case; (ii) the Decision applies only in respect of goods which have traditionally enjoyed duty-free entry into the United Kingdom when imported from the Commonwealth. If Commonwealth goods are already charged with protective duty, then this duty must be increased in step with the duty on foreign goods.

The purpose of the procedures is to provide for the United Kingdom to clear particular cases with interested countries as quickly as possible, and for any disputes as to whether a particular case fulfils the necessary conditions to be brought to arbitration with the minimum of delay.

**REQUEST OF AUSTRALIA FOR A WAIVER OF CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS IN RESPECT OF PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA**

The Contracting Parties granted to the Australian Government a waiver of obligations under Article I in order to provide certain advantages for primary products of the Territory of Papua-New Guinea when these products are imported
into Australia, for the purpose of promoting the economic development of the Territory. In granting the waiver the Contracting Parties took into consideration the assurances given by the Government of Australia that the waiver would be utilized for the development of the Territory in such a manner as not to cause material injury to the competitive trade of any other contracting party. In order to safeguard the interests of other contracting parties a procedure for prior notification and consultation was included in the waiver. The Government of Australia will report annually to the Contracting Parties, and the waiver may be reviewed at a future date if the economic factors affecting the production and trade of the Territory should change in such a way that the special treatment authorized by the waiver should result or threaten to result in substantial injury to the competitive trade of any contracting party.

EXTENSION OF TIME LIMIT FIXED IN PART II OF ARTICLE XX

The GATT contains a provision permitting contracting parties to maintain during a post-war transitional period certain measures necessitated by post-war conditions, even if these are not compatible with other provisions of the GATT. Thus among the exceptions to the general rule for the elimination of quantitative restrictions on imports and exports is the permission given in Article XX whereby a contracting party may adopt, subject to certain safeguards, measures which are considered essential for any of the following purposes: (a) the acquisition or distribution of products in short supply, (b) the control of prices by a contracting party undergoing shortages subsequent to the War, or (c) the liquidation of temporary surpluses of government stocks subsequent to the War. Article XX also provides that such measures, if they are inconsistent with other provisions of the GATT, are to be removed as soon as conditions giving rise to them cease to exist, and in any event not later than 1 January 1951. At the Fifth Session an extension for one year and at the Sixth Session an extension for a further two years were agreed. At the Eighth Session, following a proposal by Norway, the Contracting Parties decided to extend the time limit from 1 January 1954, when it would have expired, to 1 July 1955.

Items falling under the Complaints Procedures

UNITED STATES RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

In accordance with a decision taken at the Seventh Session the Contracting Parties received a report from the United States Government on the maintenance of restrictions on imports of certain dairy products. This report outlines the situation brought about by the repeal of Section 104 of the United States Defense Production Act, under which these restrictions were imposed in 1950. It also sets out the subsequent developments which led to the continuance of
these restrictions, in accordance with the requirements of Section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, as amended. At this Session the Contracting Parties discussed the United States restrictions (Press Release GATT/135) and adopted a resolution which (a) affirmed the right of the affected contracting parties to have recourse to Article XXIII procedures while the restrictions remain in effect, (b) authorized the Netherlands Government to continue to limit during 1954 their imports of wheat flour from the United States to a maximum of 60,000 tons, (c) recommended the United States Government to have regard to the harmful effect of these restrictions on international trade and (d) requested the United States Government to report, before the opening of the Ninth Session, on what action it had taken (Press Release GATT/138).

**BRAZILIAN INTERNAL TAXES**

This complaint, originally made by France and the United Kingdom, concerns 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. At this Session, the Brazilian delegation expressed regret that owing to legislative difficulties it had not been possible for the Brazilian Congress to consider the draft law which would remove the element of discrimination. Both French and British delegations expressed great disappointment at the continued delay and reserved the position of their governments in the matter. At the request of the French delegation the Contracting Parties decided to maintain this item on the agenda and adopted a recommendation urging the Brazilian Government to amend the existing laws so as to bring them into conformity with the GATT and to report as early as possible and in any case not later than the Ninth Session on action taken.

**BELGIAN FAMILY ALLOWANCES**

This complaint, originally made by Norway and Denmark with which Austria, Germany, Italy, Finland and Canada have since become associated, concerns the Belgian Family Allowances system. The system, which provides for family allowances to workers, is financed by contributions imposed upon the Belgian employers, and in order to counteract these contributions a special tax of 7.5 per cent ad valorem is levied on products imported by the Belgian national, 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 this Session the delegations of Norway, Denmark, Germany, Austria, Italy, Finland, Canada and Czechoslovakia expressed disappointment that the matter should not yet have been solved (Press Release GATT/133). At the close of the Session the Belgian delegation stated that a draft law, which would, if enacted, resolve the problem, was being considered by the Belgian Council of State. Taking note of this step the Contracting Parties decided to maintain the item on the agenda.
BELGIAN DOLLAR IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

The complaint by Canada and the United States concerning Belgian import restrictions on goods from the dollar area was made at the Sixth Session. At the Seventh Session the Belgian Government stated that it felt justified in proceeding cautiously towards a regime of freedom from quantitative restrictions on imports, and, in fact, significant measures of relaxation were announced in February 1953. At this Session the Belgian delegation reported on the current situation concerning restrictions placed on dollar imports. The Canadian and United States delegations expressed interest in knowing how soon it would be possible for the Belgian Government to take further steps to relax its import restrictions and requested more detailed information concerning the administration of Belgian import restrictions. It was agreed to hold informal consultations and to retain the matter on the agenda. (The discussion of this item is given in Press Release GATT/139.)

GERMANY: TREATMENT OF IMPORTS OF SARDINES

At the Seventh Session Norway complained that the Federal Republic of Germany was discriminating, contrary to GATT obligations, against Norwegian sardines (brisling), and the Contracting Parties, after the matter had been examined by the Panel on Complaints, recommended that the Federal Republic should consult with Norway, with a view to removing the competitive inequality which might exist between Norwegian sardines (brisling) and other types of sardines. At the Eighth Session the two delegations concerned stated that bilateral discussions had been held and had led to an agreement between the two Governments, thus resolving the Norwegian complaint.

GREEK IMPORT TAXES AND GREEK IMPORT DUTY COEFFICIENTS

Two complaints, made at the Seventh Session, concerning (a) a "contribution" or tax imposed on certain imports by the Greek Government and (b) a Greek measure which raised the pre-war tariff coefficients which had been bound under the GATT were satisfactorily settled through the administrative action taken by the Greek Government in advance of the Eighth Session (Press Release GATT/133).

FRENCH TAX ON IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Before the opening of the Eighth Session the United States had questioned whether a tax levied by France at the rate of 0.4 per cent ad valorem on all imports and exports was consistent with GATT provisions. The French delegation stated that the object of the tax, which was of a provisional nature, was to provide a fund for social assurance for agricultural workers. In view of the infringement of the GATT provisions the French delegation stated that the tax would be removed from the national budget for 1954 (Press Release GATT/133).
UNITED STATES DUTY ON DRIED FIGS

In August 1952, under the Article XIX "escape clause" procedure, the United States increased its import duty on dried figs to 4 1/2 cents per pound. The former duty was 2 1/2 cents per pound, which was a concession granted to Turkey in the 1951 Torquay negotiations. At the Seventh Session, Greece, Italy and Turkey drew attention to the effect of the United States duty increase on their export trade, and the Contracting Parties adopted a resolution by which (a) the United States Government undertook to request the United States Tariff Commission to review the facts and report on them at the Eighth Session, (b) the Turkish Government decided to apply, temporarily, certain increased rates of duty to imports from the United States, (c) the United States and Greece would consult as regards the possibility of the United States making concessions to compensate Greece.

At the Eighth Session the delegate of Greece reported that no satisfactory solution had been reached, and the delegate of Turkey expressed disappointment that the United States Tariff Commission, having re-examined the situation, had not been able to recommend a change. The Contracting Parties adopted a resolution noting that the United States Government is continuing its consultations with Greece and Italy, re-affirming their conviction that the most satisfactory solution would be for the United States to restore the concession on dried figs negotiated at Torquay and requesting the three Governments concerned to report at the Ninth Session as to further action taken.

UNITED STATES IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON FILBERTS (HAZEL NUTS)

Before the opening of the Eighth Session, Turkey drew attention to the United States decision on 10 June 1953, under Section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, whereby a quota of 4 1/2 million pounds was imposed on the importation of shelled filberts (hazel nuts), this action being considered by Turkey to nullify the benefits of GATT concessions granted by the United States. The United States delegation stated that following a review of the marketing situation by the United States Tariff Commission, it had been decided not to continue the import quotas on filberts after 20 September 1953 (Press Release GATT/136).

COMPLAINTS ARISING FROM THE USE OF EXPORT SUBSIDIES

At the Eighth Session the Contracting Parties heard statements concerning export subsidies and considered in particular the export subsidies granted by the United States on raisins (sultanas) and oranges and with the effect
of the United States marketing programme for almonds (Press Release GATT/137).

Raisins (sultanas). At the Seventh Session, Greece drew attention to the fact that the United States had, since 1949, a programme subsidizing the exportation of raisins (sultanas) and that as a result Greece was losing its traditional export market for this product. Turkey also stressed the detrimental effect of the United States export subsidy on other producing countries. Bilateral consultations between the United States and Greece were initiated. At the Eighth Session, the Greek delegation stated that no definite result had been achieved from the consultations, apart from a 30 per cent reduction of the subsidy for the 1953-1954 period: the delegation of Turkey explained that as a result of the continuation of the United States export subsidy and for other reasons Turkey had been obliged to grant a provisional export subsidy on sultanas at a rate not exceeding that of the United States subsidy. The Contracting Parties noted that the United States would keep them informed of developments through its periodical reports under Article XVI.

Oranges. At the Eighth Session Italy drew attention to the serious effect on her export trade from the granting by the United States of subsidies on exports of oranges to certain countries, in particular European countries. The delegation of South Africa also drew attention to the difficulties of marketing South African oranges in Europe owing to the effect of the United States subsidy, and the United Kingdom delegation referred to the interest of certain dependent countries in the matter. The United States delegation gave an assurance that it was fully prepared to consult with the governments concerned and would report under Article XVI. A similar undertaking was given in respect of the effect on exports of the United States marketing programme for almonds which limited the amounts which could be sold through domestic channels.
Customs Unions, Free-Trade Areas and Other Special Arrangements

SOUTH AFRICA-SOUTHERN RHODESIA CUSTOMS UNION

At the Eighth Session the Contracting Parties took note of the Fourth Annual Report of the Customs Union Council and agreed to await developments in view of the establishment of the Federal Government in the Rhodesias and Nyasaland. The Contracting Parties were informed that the two governments had agreed to continue the present Agreement as a modus vivendi, either party being free to terminate it on six months' notice.

NICARAGUA-EL SALVADOR FREE-TRADE AREA

At the Eighth Session the Contracting Parties received the second Report submitted by Nicaragua on the functioning of the Free-Trade Treaty with El Salvador. The delegate of Nicaragua and the representative of El Salvador stated that the Treaty was working satisfactorily and the Contracting Parties noted with satisfaction that the El Salvador prohibition on imports of Nicaraguan maize had been removed and that an expansion of the trade of both countries had resulted from the operation of the Free-Trade Treaty.

EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY

At the Eighth Session the first annual report of the six member States of the European Coal and Steel Community was submitted to the Contracting Parties and was examined in a Working Party where there was a free and frank exchange of views between the representatives of the member States and the Observer of the High Authority on the one hand, and the other members of the Working Party on the other (Press Release GATT/145).

The Working Party recommended, and the Contracting Parties agreed to the following conclusions: (a) to take note of the First Annual Report of the member States and the additional information annexed to this report; (b) to take note of the assurances given by the representatives of the member States and the Observer of the High Authority that they intend to initiate as soon as possible negotiations with other contracting parties on their economic and trading relations in respect of coal and steel, and to express the hope that the necessary arrangements will be made to ensure that those negotiations will be completed by 1 May 1954; (c) to take note of the assurance given by the High Authority that it will take every measure in its power to ensure that equitable prices are charged in markets outside the Community and that no arrangement or combination between producers shall impair the value of that undertaking, and to express the hope that the High Authority will see its way to make public - or at least to communicate to contracting parties concerned - the results of the examination it is conducting at this time of producers' agreements as well as the remedial measures it may decide upon in so far as those results or measures relate to the undertakings set forth in the preamble.
of the Decision of 10 November 1952; (d) to instruct the Executive Secretary
to prepare a note in advance of the Ninth Session and to discuss with the member
States and the High Authority the desirability of adopting practical arrangements
for the translation into the official languages and the circulation of extracts
of the principal legislative and administrative measures relating to the applica-
tion of the Decision of 10 November 1952.

ITALIAN CUSTOMS TREATMENT FOR LIBYAN PRODUCTS

At the Eighth Session the Contracting Parties received reports from the
Governments of Italy and Libya respectively, subsequent to the authority given
at the Seventh Session by the Contracting Parties for Italy to continue for
three years to exempt from Italian Customs duties a definite list of Libyan
exports. In view of the short period during which the waiver had been in opera-
tion, the Contracting Parties decided to postpone study of the matter until the
Ninth Session.

Tariffs and Tariff Negotiations

ARTICLE XXVIII: THE ASSURED LIFE OF THE SCHEDULES

At the Eighth Session the Contracting Parties adopted the text of a
Declaration extending the assured life of the tariff schedules annexed to the
GATT until 1 July 1955 (see Press Release GATT/143). The Declaration will remain
open for signature until 31 December 1953. The Declaration, in the preamble,
takes into account the following factors: (a) the assured life of the concessions
will expire on 31 December 1953, unless it is renewed, (b) the possibility that
contracting parties would invoke the (Article XXVIII) renegotiation procedure
for modification of specific concessions might impair the stability of tariff
rates which has been one of the principle achievements of the GATT, (c) this
would be particularly undesirable at a time when a number of contracting parties
are studying ways and means of making further progress in the reduction of tariffs
and other barriers to trade and towards the achievement of the other objectives
of the GATT.

The Declaration contains a reciprocity clause whereby the provisions of the
Declaration will not apply to concessions initially negotiated with a government
which does not sign it. This means that the governments have agreed to the
prolongation of their schedules only on a basis of reciprocity, i.e. in respect
of contracting parties which sign the Declaration. Thus, as between a contracting
party which signs the Declaration and one which does not, each government would
retain the right to have recourse to the renegotiation provisions of Article
XXVIII in respect of the concessions which it had initially negotiated with the
other.
FRENCH PLAN FOR A REDUCTION OF TARIFF LEVELS

At the Eighth Session the Contracting Parties considered a report by the Working Party which had been making a technical study of the French Plan for the Reduction of Tariff Levels. The main principles and the Eight Rules, which set out the commitments which would be involved for the participating countries in the event of the application of the Plan, were published (Press Release GATT/140, which also summarizes the views of delegations expressed during the general discussion). The Contracting Parties agreed that no decision on the report of the Working Party which drafted the Plan in its present modified form should be taken at this time but that it should be referred to governments for consideration and comments. It was also agreed that the Intersessional Committee would, at the appropriate time, consider problems of substance arising from the Plan against the background of the adequacy of the present tariff negotiating procedures, as well as any technical aspects, together with the views of governments when they had had time to study the Plan.

Administrative Barriers to Trade

METHODS OF VALUATION FOR CUSTOMS PURPOSES

At the Seventh Session the Contracting Parties were requested to submit reports on the steps taken by them to give effect to the principles of Article VII and to describe the methods they apply in determining the value of goods for customs purposes. At the Eighth Session a Working Party made a comparative study of the replies received. The Working Party found, however, that the principles enunciated in Article VII were complex and that the replies varied greatly in scope. The Working Party therefore recommended and the Contracting Parties agreed that the Intersessional Committee should be requested to consider on what basis and how far further studies should be pursued.

NATIONALITY OF IMPORTED GOODS

At the Seventh Session the Contracting Parties considered a resolution submitted by the International Chamber of Commerce urging the adoption of uniform rules for determining the nationality of imported goods. Contracting parties were requested to furnish particulars of their existing rules. At the Eighth Session a Working Party examined this material. A majority of its members were in favour of recommending the text of a draft definition of origin for customs purposes, with the suggestion that this text should be studied by governments in advance of the Ninth Session. A substantial minority of members considered that the definition proposed was both unsatisfactory and unnecessary. The Contracting Parties decided to refer the draft definition to governments for comments.
CONSULAR FORMALITIES

Reports were received from contracting parties on the steps taken towards the abolition of consular formalities. The Contracting Parties noted with satisfaction that some progress had been made, or was about to be made, by some countries which do not conform to the Standard Practices on Consular Formalities which were adopted at the Seventh Session. There will be a further progress report on steps taken to abolish consular formalities at the Ninth Session.

DISCRIMINATION IN TRANSPORT INSURANCE

At its Fifteenth Session on 16 April 1953, the United Nations Economic and Social Council adopted a resolution to the effect that certain resolutions and a study on discrimination in transport insurance by the Secretary-General of the United Nations be brought to the notice of the Contracting Parties for possible action. At the Eighth Session the Contracting Parties instructed the Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with governmental and non-governmental organizations, a report on the issues involved.

Administration of the GATT

ARRANGEMENTS FOR A REVIEW OF THE GATT

At the Eighth Session the Contracting Parties decided that arrangements should be made for a review of the GATT. They decided to begin a review of the GATT in October 1954 (or at a later date if so recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee on Intersessional Business). The purpose of this session would be to review the GATT on the basis of the experience gained since it has been in operation, to examine to what extent it would be desirable to amend or supplement the existing provisions of the GATT, and what changes should be made in the arrangements for its administration. Written proposals and suggestions regarding this review are to be sent to the Executive Secretary by 1 July 1954.

The Committee on Intersessional Business will, in due time, meet to consider whether the review shall begin in October 1954 and will also prepare the study it has been instructed to undertake concerning the basis for future tariff negotiations.

(The general discussion on this matter is summarized in Press Release GATT/142).
STATUS OF PROTOCOLS AND SCHEDULES

Uruguay: Extension of Time to sign the Annecy and Torquay Protocols

In view of the fact that the Uruguayan House of Representatives, which is to examine the GATT, may not meet before November, the Contracting Parties agreed to a request by the Government of Uruguay to extend until 31 December 1953 the time limit for signing the Annecy and Torquay Protocols.

Philippines: Decision on Accession deferred

The Contracting Parties were informed that in view of the work now in progress on the revision of the Philippine Tariff Act of 1909 and the intention to revise the existing trade relationship between the Philippines and the United States, the Philippine Government was obliged to request indefinite deferment of a decision on the question of accession to the GATT. The representative of the Philippines gave an assurance that although the Philippines was not a contracting party, the government was trying to shape their policies according to the principle of the GATT.

Protocol of Rectifications and Modifications

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

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS

Election of Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen

Mr. L. Dana Wilgress, Canada, was elected Chairman in place of Mr. Johan Melander, Norway, who is leaving the service of his Government. Mr. Fernando Garcia Oldini, Chile, was elected first Vice-Chairman and Mr. Gunnar Seidenfaden, Denmark, second Vice-Chairman.

Election of Chairman of the Interim Coordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements (ICCICA)

In accordance with the mandate given by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, the Contracting Parties elected Mr. E. A. Cohen, United Kingdom, as Chairman of the ICCICA for a period of two years.

Time and Place of Ninth Session

The Contracting Parties decided to convene the Ninth Session at Geneva on 14 October 1954. They also made arrangements for such intersessional meetings as may be required.
Thirty-three Contracting Parties to the General Agreement

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Governments represented by Observers at the Eighth Session

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Intergovernmental Organizations represented at the Eighth Session

- United Nations
- International Monetary Fund
- International Labour Office
- Food and Agriculture Organization
- Organization for European Economic Co-operation
- Council of Europe
- Customs Co-operation Council
- High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community

Representatives of the International Chamber of Commerce consulted with the Working Party which examined the questions of nationality and valuation of goods.