Allow me to recall that Belgium is one of the countries which are firmly convinced that the procedures followed at Geneva, Torquay and Annecy cannot yield any further satisfactory results.

That is the reason why Belgium was disappointed when it appeared that new procedures could not be adopted for this new conference. Belgium would have wished the so-called GATT plan to be implemented.

The abstention from these negotiations of at least one of our main partners in international trade is also of some concern to us.

Belgium experienced considerable reluctance before making her decision to participate in the forthcoming negotiations. We came to this decision, however, because we wanted to give new evidence of our interest in trade liberalization, and also for the purpose of implementing the principles of Article XXIX.

The examination of our list of prospective offers, which we conducted in common with our Benelux partners, showed the difficulty inherent in the Belgian situation. The major part of the Benelux tariff has been bound or has been the object of a conventional lowering of duty rates. Considerable efforts have had to be made to find further items on which concessions could be granted.

I wish to indicate that the offers that we are in a position to make can only be maintained if we obtain adequate counterparts, taking account of the spirit of Article XXIX. We also hope that several countries will alleviate the measures which they apply and which operate to nullify or impair the advantages which should result from the elimination of quantitative controls.

Mr. Chairman, the Belgian delegation hopes very earnestly that this conference will meet with full success. We shall do everything in our power to contribute to this common task.