We are met here formally to open to signature the Sixth Protocol of Supplementary Concessions to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. On such an occasion, the Chair is naturally expected to make a few comments. I feel a bit shy because I thought that my distinguished colleague and master, His Excellency Mr. Wilgress, would preside over this meeting. I say that he is my master because if I ever presided correctly over any meeting it is only because I always endeavoured to do as he did. Now, it is also said and believed that any good speech should have an ingredient of humour in it. Personally, I am not a humourist, or if I am, that is just unintentional, and I believe that if I try to sum up the meaning and purport of this new round of tariff negotiations, I can safely say that we have achieved better results than we ever expected to. This new conference has yielded extremely important results for the simple reason that all participating contracting parties have brought a maximum contribution and shown a maximum desire to succeed. The scepticism which was entertained by some delegations at the beginning of this conference has not been confirmed by the facts. Four months of strenuous work have led to a number of agreements being signed and this constitutes a new step in the life and work of this Organization, which is devoted to the task of eliminating trade barriers by a gradual process of erosion. GATT action has been fruitful.

I know full well - and I am sure that others share my views in this respect - that the methods followed hitherto cannot yield fully satisfactory results, and we shall have to evolve new ones. If only we remember the plan for an automatic lowering of tariff barriers everyone here would realize that we can achieve something more. Before this conference breaks up, I would wish again to greet all those who participated in it, and to thank them for their understanding and goodwill, and I would like to say to them "until we meet again to do better and to go still further". The spirit of understanding which has been shown here by everyone is the safest guarantee that gradually the world will come to appreciate the importance of our work much better. Therefore, I look forward to your presence here again on the occasion of another meeting when we shall make further efforts and pursue our attack against trade barriers.

There is a widespread tendency to subject economic matters to political questions. Now, of course, political matters are of considerable importance. However, economic factors - which some people regard as "dry as dust", as being
only of materialistic interest - are concerned with the welfare and happiness of the human kind. Therefore, all of us here should struggle to gain recognition at home for the importance of economic matters not as a science which deals with figures alone, but as the expression of the desire of mankind to achieve a better and higher standard of living. We should all, therefore, stress the fact that economic matters are more akin to the interests of the man in the street than are sometimes political concepts. And we should all be glad again to note the considerable progress which has been accomplished, and to say that we have achieved something in order that our fellow beings at home and in friendly countries can live better and more happily.