GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE  
Fourth Round of Tariff Negotiations

Statement made by Mr. C.W. Sanders,  
leader of the delegation of the United Kingdom, at the public meeting on 23 May 1956

The Chairman of the Contracting Parties in his remarks described very fairly and objectively the results of the negotiations which are embodied in the Protocol which is being opened for signature today, and set down in wider context of the general objectives of the Agreement. The United Kingdom welcomed this Tariff Conference as providing an opportunity for further tariff negotiations on a worldwide basis including the United States, and it joins in welcoming their successful conclusion. Dramatic achievements were not to be expected. The Chairman of the Contracting Parties referred to various factors which limited on this occasion the scope for progress, but we had at the outset felt that useful progress could be made. It can, I think, fairly be claimed that the progress which has been made exceeds the more pessimistic expectations. As the Chairman of the Contracting Parties pointed out, the extent to which tariffs will be reduced as a result of this conference will in general be modest; at the same time, as measured by the area of trade covered by the concessions which have been exchanged, those will constitute a useful addition to what has already been done by previous GATT tariff negotiations to further the reduction and stabilization of tariffs on a mutually advantageous basis. To achieve a fair balance of concession and advantage has involved patient negotiation and some hard bargaining, but the Conference has, I think, shown that scope still exists for negotiations for the reduction and binding of tariffs on the basis of selectivity and mutual advantage.

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