The government of the Federal Republic of Germany has accepted the invitation of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to take part in the third round of tariff negotiations scheduled to open on 28 September 1950.

The participation of Western Germany will bring within the scope of the tariff negotiations an increasingly important element in today's international trade picture and will add considerably to the significance of the negotiations.

The list of governments which have accepted the invitation to participate for the first time in the tariff negotiations now comprises: Austria, Western Germany, Guatemala, Peru, the Philippines and Turkey.

It will be recalled that the 1950 negotiations will provide an opportunity not only for additional countries to negotiate with a view to adhering to the General Agreement, but also for the existing Contracting Parties, including those which accede as a result of the Annecy negotiations, to negotiate among themselves for new reciprocal tariff concessions. There are 23 countries comprising the Contracting Parties, with the addition of 10 countries which negotiated at Annecy. These 10 countries may sign the Protocol applying the General Agreement provisionally any time before 30 April 1950. To date, two countries namely Haiti and Liberia, have signed the Protocol of Provisional Application.