Luxemburg extends a warm welcome to the new members of GATT and joins with all the other contracting parties in rejoicing at the fact that in the last ten years GATT has made a great contribution towards helping world trade to reach its present high level. We wish to thank all those who, by their intelligent and devoted endeavours, have contributed to this advance and, in particular, the Executive Secretary of GATT and his colleagues.

At the present time the economic interdependence of all countries is becoming increasingly apparent; co-operation is the logical consequence of the realization of this interdependence. The value of economic co-operation on as wide a scale as possible is particularly appreciated by a small country like Luxemburg.

By its economic structure Luxemburg is essentially an exporting country. It has always followed a policy of free trade to the fullest extent possible.

In its recent history Luxemburg has tried successively to extend its economic contacts more and more. After having integrated its economy within BLEU, Benelux, and ECSC, it has sought even broader economic co-operation within the framework of OEEC and GATT. But throughout this development, my country has paid scrupulous attention to ensuring that its new commitments were not in contradiction with the commitments which it had previously undertaken. Thus Luxemburg, which is a member of the European Economic Community, is convinced, like its partners in the Community, that from the legal point of view the Treaty of Rome is fully in conformity with Article XXIV of the General Agreement.

The Treaty of Rome is based on the same principles as GATT. A comparison of the relevant provisions of the two Treaties and, in particular, Articles 2 and 110 of the Treaty Establishing the European Economic Community, and Articles I and XXIV:4 of the General Agreement, clearly shows that the objectives are identical. Furthermore, the economic policy which the Six countries have pursued in the past should reassure those of our GATT partners who might have apprehensions with regard to the future. In this respect the past will serve as a guarantee for the future.

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I should like to refer briefly to the question of the association of the overseas countries and territories with the common market of the Six. Other spokesmen for the Six have already emphasized that nothing in this association is contrary to the rules of the General Agreement. In the memoranda which we have submitted, we have tried to dispel the apprehensions which may have arisen in the minds of certain contracting parties on this matter. I should like to stress particularly that the objective of this association is to ensure the development of prosperity in these countries and territories in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter. By encouraging the prosperity of these countries and territories we are convinced that we shall contribute to the general economic development without, at the same time, forgetting our duties towards the under-developed or developing countries which are not associated with the Community. In particular, it is on the basis of these considerations that Luxemburg - which is one of the partners of the Community without special responsibilities in the overseas countries and territories - has supported the principle of this association.

For the progress of our discussions, goodwill and a spirit of understanding must be felt by all contracting parties. Personally, I do not doubt that that will be the case; most of the statements which have been made around this table seem to me to be encouraging in this respect. The Six will put the Treaty of Rome into effect. I am convinced that any difficulties which the implementation of this Treaty may give rise to within the GATT will be solved in a manner satisfactory to all parties concerned.