GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Fifteenth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES

ASSOCIATION OF POLAND WITH THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT

In March 1959 the CONTRACTING PARTIES were informed of the desire of Poland to accede to the General Agreement. This was supported by a statement at the fourteenth session by the representative of Poland in which he said that if it were to prove impossible for Poland to be admitted as a full member his Government would be prepared to accept some other suitable form of closer co-operation with the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

A working party examined the request of Poland for a closer form of association and drew up the text of a Declaration on relations between contracting parties and Poland. The Declaration states that Poland and the parties to the Declaration, being guided by the objectives of the GATT, desire to extend their trade on the basis of mutual advantage in trading relations and opportunities. The Declaration also provides for the participation of Poland in the work of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. Under the Declaration the CONTRACTING PARTIES will review annually the development of trading relations with Poland. The Declaration will enter into force when it has been accepted by two-thirds of the contracting parties.

At their plenary meeting on 10 November a number of delegates expressed their support for the arrangements looking towards the establishment of a formal relationship between Poland and the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted the text of the Declaration, which was then opened for acceptance.

In conclusion, Mr. Franciszek Kodorzewski, Vice-Minister for Foreign Trade of Poland, said that his Government was fully prepared to take part in the work of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and accepted the Declaration based on mutual advantage in trading relations and opportunities.