Mr. Chairman,

You have been so kind as to mention the fact that the Federal Republic of Germany has today become a contracting party to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. I thank you most sincerely for your words of welcome to me on this occasion. The 1st of October 1951 is a very important date for the trade policy of my country. My Government, having today become a member of this great gathering of nations, appreciates the fact that its trade relations with them are governed henceforth on an equal footing, by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, a multilateral agreement embracing the majority of the countries of the world.

But the 1st of October is a significant date for Germany for another reason, since on this day Germany brings into force its new customs tariff which is already largely based on the Brussels international conventions. On this same day, too, the tariff concessions agreed to by Germany at Torquay are put into effect. In this connection, I have pleasure in informing you that my Government has decided, with effect from 1 October, to apply all the concessions made at Torquay in favour of all the countries concerned, including those concessions negotiated with countries which have not yet signed the Torquay Protocol or have not so far applied their respective concessions. We consider that this gesture on our part represents a substantial contribution to that close and sincere co-operation between the Contracting Parties to GATT, which, I can assure you, it will be the constant concern of my Government to promote.