The Fourth Session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement opened its Fourth Session today.

Mr. L. Dana Wilgress was unanimously elected Chairman of the Contracting Parties, being proposed by M. Max Suetens, Belgium, and M. Ernest Lecuyer, France. M. Max Suetens, Belgium, was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman, being proposed by Mr. Henry F. Grady, United States, and seconded by Sir Stephen L. Holmes, United Kingdom. Both elections are for one year.

The Contracting Parties approved their Agenda, subject to certain items being approved after distribution of relevant documents. The Agenda with explanatory notes will be made available to correspondents early next week.

The Contracting Parties agreed to send a favourable reply to the Allied High Commission inviting representatives of the Federal Government of Germany to take part in the Fourth Session as observers, participating in the discussions without vote. The representative of Czechoslovakia, M. Benes, said he had to protest against the decision to invite observers from Western Germany. He could not recognize the Government of Western Germany.

All Contracting Parties were represented with the exception of Syria, Lebanon, Haiti and China.