GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Sixteenth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES

PORTUGAL AND SPAIN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN
WORK OF GATT, PENDING FULL ACCESSION

At an earlier meeting during the sixteenth session the CONTRACTING PARTIES invited the Governments of Portugal and Spain to enter into tariff negotiations during the Tariff Conference in 1961, with a view to accession to the General Agreement (Press Release GATT/498).

At the concluding meeting of the session on 4 June it was decided, unanimously, to admit the Governments of Portugal and Spain as full participants in the sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and of their subsidiary bodies, pending their full accession to the Agreement.

A number of delegations gave a warm welcome to the Governments of Spain and Portugal as participants in the work of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and said they were willing to participate in further consultations with these Governments looking towards closer relations between them and the CONTRACTING PARTIES, pending the time when they would accede fully to the Agreement.

The representative of Portugal, Dr. Fernando de Alcambar Pereira, said that his Government greatly appreciated the invitation extended to Portugal to take part in the work of the GATT. They were very happy to be now more closely associated with the work of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, particularly as Portugal had signed the Havana Charter.

The representative of Spain, Mr. Luis Garcia de Llera thanked, on behalf of the Spanish Government, the Chairman and other speakers for the expressions of welcome they had made. After pointing out that the Spanish Government had accepted all the undertakings necessary in order to participate effectively he said that fruitful consultations had been undertaken and these would be continued in order to reach final conclusions without delay.

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