The first meeting of the GATT Council, which opened at Geneva on 19 September, ended on 23 September.

Under the chairmanship of Mr. J. H. Warren, Assistant Deputy Minister (Trade Policy) Department of Finance and Commerce, Government of Canada, the Council was very largely concerned with the preliminary consideration of matters to be discussed at the seventeenth session of the Contracting Parties, to open at Geneva on 31 October 1960.

During the course of the meeting, the representatives of the Governments of Ireland and Argentina stated the desire of their Governments to accede to the General Agreement under the terms of Article XXXIII. These applications for full accession to the Agreement were warmly welcomed by members of the Council. The Council decided to set up a working party to consider applications for accession to the Agreement. This working party, which will meet in October 1960, will consider the applications made by Ireland and Argentina as well as the applications made earlier this year, at the sixteenth session of the Contracting Parties, by Portugal and Spain.