Austria accedes to GATT: Statement by Dr. Emanuel Treu

The following statement was made today at a plenary meeting of the Contracting Parties by Dr. Emanuel Treu, on behalf of the Government of Austria:

"Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank you most sincerely for the kind words which you have just addressed to my Government and at the same time, in the name of my Government, I want to thank the delegations of all the contracting parties who have expressed themselves in favour of Austria's accession to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

"The entry into force of the very substantial tariff concessions granted by Austria at Torquay to the majority of the contracting parties and the entry into force of the accession of Austria affords me an appropriate opportunity to declare at this Session that Austria, as a contracting party to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, is prepared to participate in all efforts to reduce existing commercial barriers as she has, moreover, already done in the past wholeheartedly and with all sincerity.

"The Federal Government of Austria considers, indeed, that international economic cooperation contributes in a decisive manner to the development of a peaceful understanding between nations and it sees in the General Agreement an important instrument suitable to promote the realization of this high objective."

Note: Austria became a contracting party on October 19, 1951, following the signing of the Torquay Protocol on September 19, 1951.