The GATT Council Representatives held a meeting on 24 March 1961 under the Chairmanship of Mr. J.H. Warren, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Trade and Commerce, Canada.

The main questions of interest were the following:

1. Uruguayan import surcharges

By a Decree dated 29 September 1960, the Government of Uruguay had declared that all imports into that country would be unrestricted but that for a specified list of items surcharges on imports would still be maintained. This measure, of a temporary character, was necessary in order to achieve the stabilization and development plan of the country and to safeguard the balance-of-payments situation.

As such surcharges are inconsistent when imposed on products for which the rates of duty are bound under Article II of the General Agreement, Uruguay presented a request for a waiver to permit their application.

The International Monetary Fund was consulted in connexion with this question under Article XV:2 of the General Agreement. Then the Council approved the text of a draft decision to grant Uruguay a temporary waiver from the provisions of Article II, to be effective until 1 July 1963, at the latest. This has been submitted to the contracting parties for a vote by postal ballot.

2. Marketing of butter in the United Kingdom

During recent months the difficulties encountered by New Zealand in the marketing of butter on the British market have been of increasing concern to the New Zealand Government. The price of butter has fallen and cannot now be regarded as an economic price. There is little hope of improvement if no action is taken. As New Zealand is a major exporter of dairy products, and as butter earns an important proportion of that country's total export income, the New Zealand Government presented a request for a consultation with interested importing and exporting countries.

The Council agreed that consultations would be held during the third week of April. All contracting parties and governments associated with contracting parties, either importers or exporters of butter, will be invited to take part.
3. **Arrangements for sessions of the Contracting Parties**

The Council recommended for approval to the contracting parties by postal ballot that:

(a) A Ministerial meeting be held in the autumn if possible, at about the time of the nineteenth session. Extensive preparations will have to be carefully handled so that the Ministers will have only to deal with specific policy questions such as the expansion of trade programme, including tariff negotiations, the trade problems of less-developed countries and problems in relation to trade in agricultural products which are being dealt with by Committees II and III. The exact date of the Ministerial meeting will be decided when the arrangements are completed.

(b) A meeting of the Council of Representatives be held from 8 to 12 May, to be followed by the eighteenth session of the Contracting Parties of a week's duration, from 15 to 19 May.