My country, which is one of the founder members of the Common Market, is resolved, like all the other member States of the European Economic Community, to carry out faithfully the Rome Treaty and the Community decisions taken in implementation thereof. This means that in very many fields Belgium cannot take action without the consent of its partners. Nevertheless, within the European Economic Community, on every possible occasion my country's representatives try to get the most liberal solutions adopted.

Naturally, Belgium supports the statement made in the name of the Six by Mr. Westrick. In addition to that joint statement, however, we have just heard a special statement made on behalf of France by Mr. Baumgartner. The proposal he has made will keenly interest all the members of GATT. I myself gladly support it, but on the condition - and this must be clearly understood - that the study group suggested by Mr. Baumgartner quickly becomes a group which will take action, and do so in a dynamic manner. We cannot wait any longer for discussions to be held or for studies which might be carried on for years. The time has come to take action, and we must realize that, unless the wealthy countries understand that it is their urgent duty - in agricultural matters as well as in the field of economic co-operation - to move fast and act quickly, we shall all find ourselves submerged in a terrible state of chaos which we can still avoid, if we try to.

My anxiety stems from the fact that all too frequently we utter complacent statements of principle in which we sincerely believe, but which we seldom succeed in converting into action. All too frequently, when the time comes to carry out general directives on which we are all agreed, we find that governments have not given the requisite instructions to their competent experts or officials - and there the matter ends.

The time for good intentions is nearly over. Despite the difficulties - which I fully realize - the demographic, social and economic evolution of the world compels us to make an urgent review of the last remaining obsolete nationalist attitudes.

Having said that, I would like to refer very briefly to the tariff questions and agricultural problems which fall within the special purview of the Community.

As regards future tariff negotiations, it seems to me - as it does to many others - that, although the method of selective negotiation can always be used with some measure of success in very special cases, its possibilities are, nevertheless, exhausted as far as multilateral negotiations are concerned.
We shall, therefore, have to find some new solution, along the lines of the methods first introduced by the Community. I refer to linear reductions and automatic reductions.

Clearly, however, these solutions, suitable as they may be for industrial products, do not suit agricultural products or certain primary commodities, including tropical products, for which a solution involving tariffs only would be unrealistic and, in any case, inadequate.

In the case of agricultural products, I feel it is essential, as I have just said, to find some procedure and some new solution which would take account of facts and, more especially, of the needs of the world population and the interests of producers - in other words, of parity in standards of living.

May I emphasize, in particular, however, the relations between industrialized countries and less-developed countries.

The work done by GATT's Committee III, and the recommendations which it has made, provide the Contracting Parties with an opportunity to draw up a programme for positive and speedy action.

May I make the point that the economic and social difficulties existing in other parts of the world are not merely the difficulties of the countries concerned; they are also ours. We must therefore give those countries every possible help, not in the form of charity or paternal generosity, but as a joint effort in the technical, economic, financial and social fields.

We must carry out a far-reaching policy which will assist the greatest possible number of countries, on a footing of complete equality.

In this connexion may I remind you of what His Majesty the King of the Belgians said in Brussels on 23 October last, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Carnegie Hero Fund:

"Vast regions of the world are undergoing transformation. They have embarked on a stubborn and sometimes desperate struggle against hunger, disease and ignorance.

"For their development and for the consolidation of their structures, they need the co-operation of nations which, like ours, have had the privilege of reaching an advanced stage of technical organization and a high standard of living long before they did. This co-operation stems from an urgent need for solidarity and international justice.

"At the same time, such co-operation is a pledge of peace for the world, since world peace is threatened wherever there is a glaring imbalance in the distribution of wealth. It is our duty to provide those countries with the material and technical assistance which they need."
Those were the words of His Majesty King Baudouin when he spoke in Brussels less than a month ago.

The conclusion is obvious: Belgium is particularly interested in problems connected with the need to expand international trade between the industrialized States and the relatively less-developed countries. My country earnestly hopes that the Contracting Parties will succeed in finding appropriate solutions to these problems, more particularly within the framework of the recommendations made by the committee appointed to examine these questions.