GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

FIRST ANNUAL REVIEW OF ASSOCIATION
OF POLAND WITH CONTRACTING PARTIES UNDERTAKEN

In November 1959 a Declaration was drawn up providing for a form of association between Poland with contracting parties to the General Agreement and it entered into force a year later. The Declaration provides for a review of the development of trading relations with Poland to be held each year.

The GATT Council of Representatives decided that the first annual review should be carried out in the first half of 1962 and a working party for this purpose was appointed. The Council decided that the review should cover such matters as (a) efforts made, and progress achieved, in the expansion of trade between Poland and the contracting parties which participate in the association, (b) any problems arising from the trade relations between Poland and the participating parties, and (c) action taken by Poland for making public its laws, regulations, trade statistics, etc..

In the course of the meeting of the working party, which opened on 25 May, there was a frank and full exchange of views which, in the consideration of the working party, contributed substantially to a better understanding of the present situation. The material made available to the Working Party by contracting parties and Poland indicated that their mutual trade had been generally expanding, especially since the association came into being. On the Polish side, increases in imports and exports seemed to have been caused or stimulated by the expansion of the Polish economy, in which both industrial and agricultural production had been increasing significantly. In the view of the Working Party the expansion of Polish exports was in certain cases attributable to trade liberalization measures or other action taken by participating contracting parties.

At its meeting on 30 May the Council took note of the Working Party's report and recommended its formal adoption by the Contracting Parties at their twentieth session.

The annual review of the development of trading relations with Poland is considered most useful by all parties concerned and, under the terms of the Declaration, the second review will be held in 1963.