On 25 June, the Government of Canada notified the Contracting Parties, through the Executive Secretary, that it had taken measures to safeguard its external financial position and its balance of payments, including the imposition of temporary import surcharges of 5, 10, or 15 per cent on certain categories of products. The GATT Council met on 11 and 12 July to consider the problems arising from this decision.

The Council carried out an initial examination of the Canadian notification. A representative of the International Monetary Fund participated.

The representative of Canada explained that the measures in question were decided upon at a time of emergency and that this had influenced the character of the measures used. The Government of Canada was now working on longer term measures of a positive and constructive nature for improving Canada's external financial position.

The Council agreed that the matter was important and warranted a further, comprehensive, examination at the twentieth session of the Contracting Parties, which is scheduled to take place in the fairly near future. It was agreed that the International Monetary Fund should be invited to consult again with the Contracting Parties in this connexion. The Council considered that, in the light of the circumstances at that time, the Contracting Parties might take whatever definitive action might be required.