The twentieth session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade opened at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 23 October. It will continue until 16 November.

The opening address by the Chairman of the Contracting Parties, Mr. W.P.H. van Oorschot (Kingdom of the Netherlands) is reproduced in press release GATT/715. Mr. van Oorschot is Director-General for Foreign Economic Relations, Netherlands, Ministry of Economic Affairs.

At the opening meeting, on 23 October, the newly independent states of Trinidad and Tobago, and Uganda became contracting parties to GATT, in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Agreement. With these two accessions the number of contracting parties has increased from forty-two to forty-four.

Including countries which have acceded provisionally, or have various forms of association or are represented by observers, approximately eighty countries are attending this GATT session, as well as twelve intergovernmental organizations.