GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Twentieth Session of the Contracting Parties

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, AND UGANDA BECOME CONTRACTING PARTIES TO GATT

Within the past two months two territories, namely Trinidad and Tobago and Uganda, for which the Government of the United Kingdom had been responsible, have acquired independence and have gained full autonomy in the conduct of their external commercial relations. The Governments of these two countries have advised that they wished to be deemed contracting parties to GATT, in conformity with paragraph 5(c) of GATT Article XXVI. Under the terms of this provision the United Kingdom has sponsored the applications.

At the opening meeting of the twentieth session on 23 October, the Contracting Parties adopted two Declarations which deem Trinidad and Tobago, to be a contracting party to GATT, as from 31 August 1962; and Uganda to be a contracting party, as from 9 October 1962. The accession of these two countries increases the number of contracting parties to GATT from forty-two to forty-four.

Mr. S.K. Nkutu, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Uganda, after taking his seat, said that it was a great satisfaction for his Government to join GATT so soon after independence; he was grateful to the United Kingdom for her sponsorship. He pledged his Government to honour the obligations of the GATT and to work with the contracting parties to further the objectives of the Agreement - in particular the work being undertaken towards expanding the exports of less-developed countries, especially tropical products.

Owing to a delay the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago was unable to be present at this meeting.

On behalf of all delegations the Chairman conveyed a warm welcome to the two new contracting parties.