The Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade held their twentieth session at Geneva from 23 October to 16 November 1962.

The Contracting Parties took a number of decisions which implement the objectives of the GATT to abolish or minimize barriers and obstacles to international trade. Work was carried forward on the Programme for Trade Expansion, and an important decision was taken to convene a ministerial meeting in the early part of 1963 to consider a programme for the effective liberalization and expansion of trade in both primary and secondary products. Full weight would be attached to the importance and urgency of negotiating solutions to the problems of trade in primary products and to the additional trade problems of the less-developed countries. (The text of this Decision is set out in press release GATT/724.) It was decided to hold the twenty-first session of the Contracting Parties from 22 October to 15 November 1963.

At the conclusion of the session the following officers were elected for the next annual period:

Chairman: Mr. J.H. Warren, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Trade and Commerce, Canada
(a biographical note on Mr. J.H. Warren is provided below)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. J.B. Daramola, Federal Government of Nigeria
                        Mr. W.P.H. van Oorschot, Director-General for Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Kingdom of the Netherlands

A detailed survey of the work undertaken during the twentieth session will be issued shortly.
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE ON MR. JACK HAMILTON WARREN
CHAIRMAN OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

After serving in the Royal Canadian Navy, 1941-1945, entered Canadian Department of External Affairs in 1945.

1945-1954 served in Canadian Department of External Affairs
1954-1957 served in Canadian Department of Finance

Financial Counsellor at Canadian Embassy, Washington D.C.
Alternate Executive Director, for Canada, of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund

1957-1958 Counsellor, Canadian Delegation to OEEC, Paris
1958-1962 Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa
1960-1961 Chairman, GATT Council of Representatives

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