Mr. Chairman, allow me to expound briefly the basic ideas which have guided my delegation in the examination of the problems listed under item I of the agenda for this conference and to refer more particularly to the specific proposals which have been submitted to us.

First of all, the developments which have occurred throughout the world since the second world war have profoundly modified international economic relations. During that period many peoples have acquired independence and are therefore inevitably aspiring towards accelerated economic, social and political development. In the second place, the expansion of productive forces throughout the world, more particularly in industrialized countries, has however intensified the trend towards a closer unification of the world economy and has led to integration movements. But, contemporary integration groupings, in view of the present international situation, lead to the establishment of steadily increasing artificial barriers to international trade and economic co-operation thereby impeding a closer integration of the world economy. However, in view of the extension of productive forces and considering the technical and scientific progress which is taking place in our time, the interdependence between all the regions of the world has been strengthened to such a point that lasting solutions to the problems of the development of individual countries and areas can only be achieved within the framework of a comprehensive development of the world economy.
The economic development of developing countries and the expansion of their foreign trade are particularly affected not only by non-tariff barriers but also by the existence of high tariffs in certain major industrialized countries, by the lowering of customs duties in the trade between industrialized countries participating in individual integration movements, and in particular by the European Economic Community with its tariff policy, its intensified agricultural protection and its policy of frontier levies. In addition, some industrialized countries have, of late, under the pretence of imposing anti-dumping duties, made it more difficult and even impossible to import products from other countries, in particular the developing countries, which can compete with national products selling at high prices as a result of protectionist and monopolistic policies, in utter disregard of differences in labour productivity between the countries concerned. Furthermore, the unsatisfactory situation in the field of trade between countries with different economic and social systems, has also had unfavourable effects on the development of world trade, more particularly on the trade of developing countries and on their economic development.

The accelerated development of the less-developed countries constitutes no doubt a task which pertains, in the first instance, to these countries themselves. However, whatever their efforts may be with a view to mobilizing their resources by means of a well thought-out economic policy, fully coordinated with other social measures, the results they can expect therefrom will be less satisfactory and their endeavours more difficult if trends in world markets and international economic relations are unfavourable. That is the reason why I am of the opinion that it is particularly important to call attention to those parts of the documents which have been submitted to our consideration that refer to the need for joint endeavours to expand and diversify the production and export capacity of the less-developed countries in order to increase their earnings from overseas sales either through improvements in the terms of trade or the stabilization of prices of primary commodities or by compensatory financing, or again through all these measures jointly.

The complex problems besetting the developing countries and their demands with a view to liquidating the evil inheritance of the past loom larger and larger in international relations, as can be seen from both the Declaration of the Belgrade Conference and the Cairo Declaration. Both these Declarations point to the way that we must follow if we are to resolve the outstanding problems of development and international economic co-operation.

The forthcoming United Nations Conference on Trade and Development will also attempt to find solutions to many problems of economic development arising in the world which, until now, have always been postponed. It would therefore be both logical and useful if GATT, which is the largest organization at work today in the field of international trade, should, having regard to the characteristics of international economic relations and their present state of development lay down and finalize at this very meeting the objectives for action which have been outlined in the document before us. In this
context, this ministerial meeting should yield more substantial results than
the previous meeting held in November 1961. Thus GATT could confirm its
position and show that it can resolve existing problems in the field of
international trading relations and contribute in a positive manner to the

Mr. Chairman, it behoves us to attempt a solution to the above-mentioned
problems. The work accomplished by Committee III, the Programme of Action sub-
mitted by twenty-one developing countries have contributed to clarify the views
and to crystallize the opinions and the principles generally recognized as
regards the problems of the less-developed countries. Our task is now to
adopt the programme which has been examined by the twentieth session of the
Contracting Parties and to take concrete steps with a view to its implementation.

However, although we are all agreed on certain principles and standards,
the fact is that little has been done until now to translate them into facts.

The GATT is preparing for negotiations with a view to a general lowering
of tariffs. The developing countries are also interested in the results of
such negotiations, because these would automatically be extended to their
industrial and agricultural exports. As we see things, this procedure will
require some time because the objective is to reconcile the interests and the
views of the industrialized countries both in respect of agricultural problems
and as regards the procedures for the lowering of customs tariffs.

That is also one of the reasons which account for the fact that my
delegation is of the opinion that it is not desirable to relate the Programme
of Action to the tariff negotiations and that the participation of those
countries in the tariff negotiations could only be meaningful if the problems
cutlined in the Programme of Action were resolved in the way which has been
proposed in this programme.

The Programme of Action which we endorse as a whole incorporates the
demands of the developing countries and should make it possible to eliminate
barriers which impede increases in their exports and export earnings, without
which they could not possibly diversify their economies and speed up their
economic development. We appreciate the efforts made in the examination of
this programme. We also appreciate the fact that support has been given by
most industrialized countries to the provisions that no new tariff or non-tariff
barriers should be erected, the elimination of quantitative restrictions and
duty-free entry of certain tropical products. We are convinced however that
GATT can deal efficiently with the problems of the developing countries only
if additional attempts are undertaken in order to reach agreement on the other
points included in the Programme of Action which has already been approved in
principle at the last ministerial meeting. We attach particular importance to
duty-free entry for tropical products, the elimination of customs duties which
are still being imposed on raw materials, the elimination of internal charges
and the abolition of barriers to imports of semi-processed and processed products
from the developing countries.
While the developing countries are interested in principle in the forthcoming tariff negotiations, their actual interest in such negotiations would depend on the extent to which the problems outlined in the Programme of Action will be resolved in the way which has been proposed in the Programme itself.

We are of the opinion that the proposal which has already been adopted concerning the submission of annual reports on measures taken for the implementation of the Programme of Action is useful, particularly as regards the elimination of quantitative restrictions, tariffs, revenue duties and internal taxes. This would make it possible for the countries concerned to hold consultations if certain countries had difficulty in respect of specific products and would make it possible to reach solutions acceptable to the parties concerned.

As regards the granting of preferences mentioned under item 8 of the agenda, we accept the suggestion that a more detailed study should be undertaken forthwith.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to refer to the important suggestion that the work of GATT should be extended through an examination of development problems in collaboration with interested international agencies, which have responsibility for development financing. We would wish to recommend to GATT to extend its activity in the direction of a continuing liaison with these organizations, with the United Nations bodies and with the United Nations Organization as a whole.

We have another problem to solve: that is the adjustment of the provisions of the General Agreement to the practice which has considerably evolved over the past few years. We are of the opinion that the developments which have taken place are very important because they emphasize the need for the continuing adjustment of GATT to changes in international trade and in the field of international economic relations.

Article XVIII has established conditions which facilitate the accession of the developing countries to the General Agreement. But the documents submitted to this meeting stress the need to extend the provisions of the General Agreement, an objective which my delegation endorses and supports. In this respect we wish to stress the need for conditions to make it possible to extend GATT activities in the direction of co-operation between countries with different economic and financial systems. One should no doubt welcome the practice adopted by GATT in this regard because it bears witness to the fact that international trade and international trade co-operation demand that outside the more limited field of tariffs and quantitative restrictions, GATT should also deal with the problems of the expansion of trade between the various countries, on the basis of the plans and programmes which are the outcome of their particular method of conducting their economic affairs.
If the programme of action and the decisions required for its implementation were adopted so as to create conditions enabling developing countries to participate in tariff negotiations and if, at a subsequent stage, the initiative taken by GATT with a view to closer co-operation with international bodies which have responsibility in the field of development financing and the diversification of the economies of the developing countries was strengthened and if conditions propitious to its extension were created, the solution of the problems of the developing countries as a whole would be greatly facilitated. All this would make a major contribution to the strengthening of stability and unity within the framework of the future expansion of the world economy.