May I first salute this meeting which marks the official opening of the trade negotiations bearing the name of the late President Kennedy.

The Kennedy Round is a fresh attempt to find solutions for the expansion of international trade in the new conditions of present-day international relations. In this regard, we consider it important that the objective of the Kennedy Round is the elimination and relaxation not only of tariff barriers but also of other barriers to international trade. May I add, however, that we do not consider the Kennedy Round as an isolated endeavour but rather an integral part of a broader which goes beyond the framework of GATT. In other words, we consider the Kennedy Round as forming part of the United Nations action in order to promote the accelerated economic development of the developing countries. We shall, therefore, evaluate the results of the Kennedy Round not only in the light of their contribution to the expansion of world trade as a whole, but also, and above all, in the light of their contribution to the development of the under-developed countries.

Today, however, the diversities still remaining on certain essential points make it difficult to see exactly to what extent the Kennedy Round which is now opening will succeed in solving trade problems between the developed industrial countries, and still less what it will contribute for the under-developed countries. In such a situation, we can only express our hope that the results will be generally satisfactory and, on the other hand, emphasize our desire for the Kennedy Round to make a maximum and effective contribution towards increasing the export earnings of developing countries, for that is essential for their economic development.

In this connexion we support the suggestion that in the coming months, as in the past, the developing countries should continue to participate in all the committees and groups established in connexion with the Kennedy Round negotiations.
Mere formal participation by the developing countries is not enough, however, to meet their legitimate demands in regard to trade, if the negotiations are viewed from the traditional angle, that is to say, as negotiations in which the final results depend solely on the negotiating capacity of the partners and their respective contributions. We have the impression that such views still exist, despite the fact that the principle of non-reciprocity with regard to developing countries is generally recognized and accepted. It seems to us, however, that the absence of any precise definition of non-reciprocity is hindering the formulation of a trade policy which would correspond more closely to the new conditions of international economic relations which I mentioned a few moments ago.

I think I need not enumerate here the demands of the less-developed countries; they are well known since the ministerial meeting in 1963, and are at present being examined also at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. In this regard, I have in mind particularly the implementation of the Action Programme, the question of the preferences to be granted on industrial products exported by developing countries, the elimination of discriminatory non-tariff barriers which, together with excessive tariffs, reduce still further the limited competitive capacity of less-developed countries in the markets of industrial countries, etc.

The conclusion to be drawn from what I have said, Mr. Chairman, is that the final result of the Kennedy Round will depend, first and foremost, on the contribution which the developed industrial countries are prepared to make not only towards each other, but also acting as a group, towards the less-developed countries. This latter contribution, which we consider of the utmost importance, can be achieved only if the developed countries, in addition to their mutual concessions which would be of indirect benefit also to the developing countries, grant direct and special concessions to the developing countries during the Kennedy Round. In our view, therefore, the Kennedy Round should furnish an opportunity for satisfying to the trade needs of the developing countries which have been examined and recognized for years past.

I take this opportunity to stress the importance which my country attaches to the fact that the Kennedy Round will also deal with obstacles to trade in agricultural products. We hope that such obstacles will be eliminated or reduced in the direction indicated by the Ministers at their meeting in 1963, that is to say, by the creation of acceptable conditions of access to world markets in furtherance of the expansion of world trade in agricultural products.

In conclusion, my delegation attaches great importance to Poland's participation and I hope that during the negotiations a satisfactory solution will be found for the closer collaboration of Poland with the Contracting Parties.