Corrigendum to the Summary Record of the Third Meeting

Page 6, para. 3

The name of the Philippine delegate should be Mr. ALLAS.

Page 2

The statement by Mr. PENTEADO (Brazil) should read as follows:

"The Brazilian Delegation would like to make clear the position of its country as a 'Low Tariff Country', as a preliminary step to any negotiation or re-negotiation of tariff concessions.

"Indeed, Sir, Brazilian tariffs, based as they are on a system of specific duties, do not maintain the same level of incidence when there occurs some fluctuation in international prices or in the value of the national currency.

"So, Brazilian tariffs, already among the lowest in the world, have been made still lower and lower by continuing rising prices abroad, and by decreasing buying power at home.

"As a result of such conditions we find ourselves in a position that has been adequately described on page 9 of the Second Report on the operation of GATT, in these words: 'The low tariff countries now fear that there are no further concessions of value which they can offer as their part of a bargain for obtaining significant concessions from the countries with high tariffs'.

"Our position as a low tariff country was definitely established at Geneva, in 1947, when we were allowed to negotiate on the basis of our existing tariffs, adjusted by 40%.

"The Brazilian Congress, however, did not carry out an uniform increase of our whole Tariff and, except for a few items, the bulk of our duties has been increased only by 10 and 20 per cent, which left our country in a very disadvantageous position to negotiate, at Annecy and here at Torquay.

"Despite her position as an under-developed country, Brazil is now aiming at a gradual elimination of quantitative import restrictions that she was compelled to adopt, in view of a persistent disequilibrium of her balance of payments.

"However, once these restrictions are abolished, the full impact of GATT concessions will be felt by Brazilian economy. Thus, as the distinguished Delegate for India so well pointed out during our last meeting, the peculiar position of under-developed countries should be taken into consideration during the tariff negotiations now starting.

"It would be inconsistent, to say the least, that the U.N.O. tried to protect the under-developed countries through the Economic and Social Council, and ignored the problems of the same under-developed countries in GATT negotiations.
"The Brazilian Delegation also associates itself with the statements made by Benelux and Scandinavian representatives, since we feel that the position of these European Delegations is similar to ours, as regards the negotiations between low and high-tariff nations.

"So, my Delegation should like to see immediately applied one of the rules for tariff negotiations, as laid down in the Havana Charter, and accepted by the Contracting Parties. That rule requires that "the binding of low tariffs or of duty-free treatment, shall be considered as a concession equivalent to a reduction of high tariffs".

"As it is said in the report I have already quoted "the Contracting Parties have drawn attention to the fact that this is a rule of particular importance, and that observance of the rule is expected in the Torquay negotiations".

"Indeed, Mr. Chairman, the observance of that rule is the only possibility for low tariff countries to negotiate. So, as a delegate from a low tariff country, willing and prepared to negotiate, I hope and expect that such basic rule will be fully observed in Torquay."