Sir,

I have the honour to write to you concerning the Protocol Amending the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to Introduce a Part IV on Trade and Development.

As you will recall, this Protocol was drawn up by the CONTRACTING PARTIES and opened for acceptance on 8 February 1965, following a decision taken at a ministerial meeting when it was recognized that an adequate legal and institutional framework was needed for the efforts being made by the CONTRACTING PARTIES to facilitate the expansion of the trade and development of developing countries. The Protocol was originally open for acceptance until 31 December 1965 in the expectation that by that time it would have been accepted by two thirds of the contracting parties, which is the number of acceptances required to bring the amendments into force. When it was reported to the Council of Representatives on 15 December that less than two thirds of the contracting parties had accepted the Protocol, disappointment was expressed at the lengthy delay in the incorporation of this important new chapter in the General Agreement. The Council decided to recommend that the Protocol should remain open for acceptance for a further period. This recommendation has now been adopted and I have been directed by the Council to address an appeal to your Government to take, as soon as possible, the steps necessary to enable your Government to accept the Protocol. It is hoped that by the time the CONTRACTING PARTIES meet for their twenty-third session in March these amendments to the GATT will have entered into force, thus bringing fulfilment to the wishes expressed by the Ministers and providing the legal basis for one of the most important sectors of the CONTRACTING PARTIES' work.
I would remind you that the Protocol is deposited with me and that it may be accepted either by signature or by letter signed by the Head of State, the Head of Government or the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient Servant.

E. Wyndham White
Director-General