I am taking the floor on behalf of a country which is not a member of the GATT but which is interested in all its activities and discussions. This is proved not only by our presence here at a time when perhaps the most far-reaching question of international trade co-operation is being discussed but also by our previous attendance as observers.

I am most happy that I can take the floor in such a distinguished and wide gathering which proves an ever increasing interest in international trade co-operation. May I also express the hope that this increased interest will not only continue but that GATT will increase its membership.

I believe that the extent of the future GATT will depend in great measure upon how this honourable meeting will define the organizational and fundamental questions of future co-operation in international trade. I do not doubt that it will make all necessary efforts in this direction, since it is difficult to imagine how an international organization which claims to be universal could exist with limited membership. International trade is the concern of all countries and, consequently, they should be assured of participation, whatever its form, in the general decisions which concern them.

I would like to explain here the apparent contradictions between this statement and the fact that many countries - including perhaps the FNRJ - will probably not be able, for the moment, to become members of GATT. In the case of the FNRJ, for example, the question is not that we do not wish but that for the time being we cannot become a member of the GATT. This is not perhaps so much because of a difference of economic systems, but because of our situation which demands the corresponding international trade instruments, especially when one takes into consideration the phase in which we find ourselves nowadays: that of an accelerated and vast economic development which exercises a strong pressure on our balance of payments, this being, however, a necessary phase for its recovery. All this makes it impossible - at least for the present - to introduce such instruments as customs, for example, which are considered by GATT to be the basis of co-operation and a prerequisite of membership. However, if for the time being our objective reasons prevent us from becoming full members, this does not exclude our interest in GATT and a certain measure of co-operation until such times as our interior situation will allow us to collaborate more closely.

Liberalization is a permanent aim towards which we are constantly striving, in so far as the means at our disposal will permit. In fact, we are following the same aim as GATT and in this connexion there is no divergence between this body and ourselves. All that separates us is time. We, like GATT, consider that the world must work towards wider liberalization...
in order that, one day, it may reap the fruit of a multilateral and non-discriminatory trade.

The question is merely to what measure this can be realized at present and how it can be realized as quickly as possible in the interest of world trade as a whole. On no account should it be overlooked that certain parts of the world and certain countries are in very different stages of development, or, more concretely, that certain are developed and certain others not; and that the latter need a great deal of time, much of their own effort and much assistance on the part of the more developed countries, in order that they may, if not catch up within the former, at least reduce the gap which separates them. On the other hand, it should not be forgotten that not all countries are travelling along the same road, that is to say they do not all use the same economic and political means in order to attain their economic wellbeing. This difference, however, does not preclude all countries from having a common goal and from collaborating together towards its achievement. The fact that the newly-formed GATT will take into consideration the particular position of the underdeveloped countries is a proof that we are conscious of the above mentioned facts. We can but rejoice in the fact and express how we imagine this particular status to be. We believe that the particular position of the under-developed countries may be defined in two ways - one we might call "statical" and the other "dynamic". The first would consist in a simple acknowledgment of the fact that the under-developed countries cannot follow the commercial policies of the developed countries. That would be a mere recognition of the present state of affairs. This would be something but not very much, since it would not imply a guarantee that these countries might move any faster towards the goal which is the basis of GATT. On the other hand, the dynamic conception of international co-operation would consist, primarily, in the commercial and financial policy of the developed countries being so measured as to render easier the development of the under-developed countries and their road in a wide liberalized trade. In other words, in order to obtain the normal development of the widest possible co-operation in international trade, it is necessary to solve such problems as the stabilization of prices of primary products and, in particular, that of international financing. I do not wish to imply by this that these questions should enter within the jurisdiction of GATT, but merely that GATT should take them into account and that it should contribute towards their solution, precisely from the point of view of a widening of trade, which is its basic aim. In this light, also, we have understood the proposal for a stronger tie between GATT and the monetary fund; that is to say that the Fund will help those countries which are ripe for convertibility and equally, perhaps more, those others which are still far removed from convertibility but which must be helped to approach it.

We are convinced that this dynamic method would serve the purposes of international trade and, therefore, GATT and its aims. An increased volume of exchange between the developed and the under-developed countries is an essential prerequisite of the healthy growth of world trade, since, without it, world trade will tend to be confined to fields more restrained than necessary.

From the foregoing issues the fact that the future GATT - an expression of the solidarity and collaboration of the countries of the world within the
field of international trade - implicitly places a greater responsibility on the part of the developed countries, in their international trade relations and in its normal development, and particularly a greater responsibility in their relations with the under-developed countries as partners of international exchange. If this should find a response in the future rules of GATT, let us hope that its doors will be open to as many members as possible. We should like, in this connection, to see GATT take more stringent steps against such commercial instruments as subsidies and dumping, which may be used by the more financially strong countries to the detriment of the others. The greater responsibility of the developed countries implies that they have to follow the "good creditor policy" and that they must endeavour to minimise what is known as "agrarian protectionism". The two problems are more or less linked with the relationship between the developed and the under-developed countries. The normal development of international trade is largely dependent upon whether or not the creditor countries will follow the corresponding trade policy. It is not my intention, here to enter into details, as this problem is a sufficiently familiar one, but I should like to stress the fact that the good creditor policy is a prerequisite of the proper functioning of GATT, such as we should like to see it.

So far as agrarian protectionism is concerned, this is always linked with the fate of the under-developed countries, important exporters of agricultural products. One thing must be made clear - that in present-day circumstances - that is to say in the absence of any stabilization plan and at the same time in the presence of an evermore acute agrarian protectionism - there is bound to be a heavy pressure on the agricultural exports of under-developed countries. It is for this reason that we consider the moderation of agrarian protectionism to be an important aim for GATT to follow. We think that with this would be solved another problem which has recently been the concern of world public opinion - namely, that of agricultural surpluses, which are the outcome of agrarian protectionism in the developed countries.

Mr. President,

We have just drawn a very general outline of our conception of international trade collaboration and of the future GATT. We should like once more to stress the point concerning those countries which, for various reasons, will be obliged to remain outside GATT. We believe that it should be made possible for them to enjoy a certain collaboration until such time as they are in a position to participate fully. Regarding the nature of this collaboration, I have no concrete proposal to offer, but merely an idea which, I trust, the members of GATT will take into consideration when the new rules are formulated.

I should nevertheless like to mention a form which this partial collaboration might possibly take, namely, by consultations within GATT. Whether or not a member of GATT, a country has certain contacts with its members. We believe that the possible difficulties arising from these contacts could be diminished or eliminated if, for certain questions of general interest, consultations together with non-member countries could be provided for within GATT. It is up to those present to decide upon this issue.

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