The Executive Secretary to the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade presents his compliments and has the honour to recall that following informal discussions with a number of delegations during the Twelfth Session about the desire of the Polish Government to establish closer relations with the CONTRACTING PARTIES, he sent a letter dated 14 November 1957 to the Polish Permanent Representative in Geneva, indicating a willingness to pursue this matter in somewhat greater detail "in order to ascertain the character and extent of the relationship which might in due course be established between Poland and the CONTRACTING PARTIES"; this letter was circulated to Heads of delegations at the Twelfth Session with his memorandum of 25 November. Subsequently, as a result of further consultations with the Permanent Representative of Poland, the Executive Secretary arranged for the Deputy Executive Secretary to visit Warsaw to continue these discussions. The Deputy Executive Secretary has now reported on his conversations as follows:

(1) The desire of Poland to be associated with the GATT arises from its desire to expand and diversify its export trade as a means of earning the foreign exchange to meet its needs for imports of capital equipment and consumer goods.

(2) The Polish Government would wish, through association with the GATT, to obtain most-favoured-nation treatment, assurances of non-discrimination, and the possibility of recourse to conciliation procedures for the settlement of commercial disputes.

(3) As it appears improbable that these objectives could be attained through a form of association short of accession, the Polish Government has now decided in principle to seek accession to the General Agreement, pursuant to the provisions of Article XXIII.

(4) The Polish Government is willing to consider sympathetically what assurances and concessions it could offer in its own market for the trade of contracting parties as a counterpart of the tariff concessions and other advantages which Polish trade would enjoy as a consequence of participation in the General Agreement. Some technical suggestions have been examined by the Deputy Executive Secretary and officials of the Polish Government.

(5) The Polish Government is also disposed to consider sympathetically any other problems arising in connexion with Poland's trading relations with contracting parties.

In the light of these developments, the Executive Secretary suggests that it would be desirable to proceed with the examination of this question, at least on an informal basis, during the meeting of the Intersessional Committee in April.