The work in this Committee has so far been concentrated on the contents of the agenda rather than its structure. The justification process is indeed important and according to the work-program that we have agreed upon it is not yet finished. The Nordic countries have already expressed their views in this regard. The Nordic countries feel, however, that this process, and for that matter the whole preparatory work, could be greatly facilitated if already now we give increased attention to the structuring of the agenda. Time is passing and we do not feel that it is now premature to enter into such discussions.

The agenda structure should in our mind reflect both how we feel that the ministers would like to organize their work and what we feel should be the outcome of their meeting. For our part we think that the ministers should concentrate on taking decisions and giving guidelines for future work in addition to stock taking. This speaks for an action-oriented agenda which should include one item grouping matters in need for and ready for some kind of political impetus and one item for the work program of the GATT which would permit the ministers to express themselves on the priorities for the future work.

The outcome of the meeting should in our mind be reflected in some kind of final document. This should contain - as an operative part - the decisions, guidelines and priorities mentioned above but should also consist of some general conclusions drawn from the ministers' assessment of the international trading situation. What I have in mind is that it would be our hope and indeed expectation that in the course of the general debate ministers would on the one hand give their support for GATT as an organization and as a set of rules for world trade and on the other hand express a clear condemnation of any trend towards increased protectionism.

The agenda we have in mind could with this reasoning be structured as follows: (1) the development of world trade and the evolution of the international trading system (2) specific matters for consideration (3) GATT's future work and priorities (4) final document.

With this proposal at this stage with regard to the structure of the agenda we have not wished to prejudge what various questions should be addressed by the ministers. This being, as we see it, still a matter to be solved during the preparatory work or negotiations ahead of us. It is our firm belief, however, that this process can be made easier and more efficient if already now we seek to decide upon a structure of agenda that makes a clear distinction between "stock-taking" and "concrete actions".