The Contracting Parties today began their discussion of the agenda item titled:

**Emergency Measures to resolve the Crisis of the Cuban Textile Industry**

Emilio Fando, Cuba, explained that unless emergency measures to protect the Cuban textile industry were taken the industry would be wiped out. He said that the industry involved a capital investment of 45 million dollars and an annual wages payment of 26 million dollars to 19,000 workers and their families.

Cuba's great need, said Mr. Fando, was for diversification of industry to reduce unemployment, especially the seasonal unemployment inherent in the sugar industry.

The Cuban Government, said Mr. Fando, believed that GATT afforded the necessary means to prevent the ruin of the Cuban textile industry.

Woodbury Willoughby, United States, said that the U.S. obviously had an important interest in the Cuban problem and he would like to examine the Cuban statement before commenting on it.

The Contracting Parties will continue their discussions leading towards the possible setting up of a working party next week.