Statement by Mr. Woodbury Willoughby, Chairman of the United States Delegation, at the opening of Second Series of Tariff Negotiations, Annecy, 11 April 1949.

The Secretary of State has asked me to give you the following message:

"I wish to take this opportunity to extend my greetings to you who have gathered in Annecy to participate in the Third Session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the ensuing Tariff Negotiations.

The United States Government believes that the effective international cooperation in economic matters is essential to the success of any program for assuring a lasting peace, and that it can and should take a variety of forms. Moreover, effective international economic achievement requires the active participation of many countries on a cooperative, democratic basis.

We in the United States firmly support and participate in the economic activities of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. We are also giving special help to the countries which have chosen to participate in the European Recovery Program. In his Inaugural Address President Truman recently stated that the United States stands ready to join with other countries to promote economic development by facilitating the exchange of technological information and stimulating the flow of capital. In his Economic Report to the Congress in January the President pointed out that the Charter for an International Trade Organisation lays the foundation for a return to reasonable freedom of world trade. He is expected to send the Charter shortly to the Congress for approval.

On a par with those cooperative endeavors and of longer standing, is the program to reduce trade barriers and eliminate discriminatory trade practices through trade agreement negotiations. This program is of great value in its own right and is essential to the permanent success of other programs of economic cooperation. The conclusion of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade between 23 countries at Genova in 1947 laid a firm foundation for the sound expansion of trade. The adherence of eleven additional countries to the General Agreement will mark another important milestone in our progress toward world recovery. I send you my sincere best wishes for a full measure of success in your important deliberations."

I should like to add, not only on my own behalf but, as well, on behalf of all members of the United States Delegation that we are very happy indeed to have this opportunity of working with you. One of the rewards of assignment to an international conference is renewing acquaintance with our counterparts from other countries. We find among the other delegations here at Annecy many old friends and are looking forward to getting to know those who are new to us.

We are fortunate in meeting in one of the beauty spots of the world. I am hopeful that these magnificent surroundings will inspire all of us to do everything we can to bring this cooperative effort to a successful conclusion.