As Mayor and Chief Magistrate of the Borough of Torquay, the distinction and responsibility has fallen to me to offer to the Leaders and Members of each Delegation attending this third Post-War Tariff Conference, an official and cordial welcome to our Borough, renowned and known as the Queen of the English Riviera.

The welcome I give you to-day is one on behalf of the whole of the Burgesses of Torquay, in fact the whole of the South Devon area, and although it is at all times difficult to express one's sincerity in words, I can assure you that it is with a very deep feeling of pride and gratitude that I extend this welcome to all here assembled.

My Borough Council realise to the full that this gathering of Delegates in Torbay is an unique one in many aspects. Firstly, I believe it is the initial occasion when a gathering of this size has been held in any comparable circumstances in the provinces of this Country; and secondly, Torquay has been chosen by His Majesty's Government as the venue of this gathering owing to the fact, I think, that we have built up a not inconsiderable reputation as a Conference Town offering facilities and resources which should and can compare, if not eclipse, any that can be offered elsewhere, and being such as would be conducive to hard work and leisure, in what one can truly describe as ideal surroundings.

We are honoured to-day by the presence among us of many who stand high in the Council of the Nations, and I am fully aware that you will during your sojourn in our Borough, be faced with problems which will tax your abilities and ingenuity to the utmost. May I say to you all that I trust wisdom and understanding will be yours, so that out of your deliberations, success will be achieved, and a final agreement arrived at.

I am sure I am voicing the feeling of my Council in expressing our sincere appreciation to those who dealt with the detailed work involved in administrative planning and in organizing this Conference in which we have tried to play our part. This has been an immense task, and has culminated in an effort which I trust will prove to the satisfaction of all. I am fully alive to the fact that the attitude and demeanour of the Delegates and their Staffs to their work in the Conference can be seriously affected by their reactions to the arrangements which are made for them, and I, therefore, impress upon you all that it is the desire and wish of my Council and the inhabitants of this Borough to give you every help and facility to make your stay amongst us a memorable one.

I personally, as Mayor, desire that you should know that I shall be at your service at all times, willing to assist and help in any direction which may arise, so that during your stay in our town which may extend over many months, you may receive that true Devon hospitality and kindness in your leisure hours.
Never before in the history of this world was there a greater call for mutual understanding and good fellowship or honesty of purpose, and I am one who believes very sincerely that environment and beauty are the first essentials to such conditions, and I venture to suggest that in Torquay you have those ingredients which will help you all to reach that high plane of understanding and happy relationship which is undoubtedly your earnest desire, and which I trust will assist you in your deliberations.

During your stay in Torquay, you will, I am sure, have certain opportunity for leisure and relaxation. May I suggest that you make full use of that time by exploring our magnificent coastline and visiting those innumerable places of interest in our town and district - not forgetting that wonderful belt of moorland known as Dartmoor - when I feel sure that you will return home refreshed and filled with admiration for a country full of natural beauty. The Local Authorities in this area, of which there are nearly 20, have all combined in their desire to give hospitality to you all and have set up an organization which will be at your service to help you to get familiar with our area so rich in historical and scenic glory. We are fortunate in having many Art, Cultural and Sporting Societies in our midst, all of which are desirous, indeed anxious, to offer you hospitality and all reasonable facilities, and I trust you may be able to avail yourselves of these offers.

Finally, Gentlemen, we will not lose for a moment the sense and seriousness or urgency of your work in which we as a Borough can play no part; but ours is the task, firstly, of seeing that every possible assistance is given to those in charge of this vast organization, to ensure the smooth running of your proceedings; secondly, to see that your relaxation and leisure hours are gainfully employed; and finally, the supreme duty of all in this Borough is to see that you receive that hospitality and kindness and attention which we offer to all our Visitors from whatever Country they may come. To this duty my Council and its Officers and the Inhabitants of Torquay will attune their minds and give of their best.

Then maybe, if a happy solution and agreement to all your problems can be reached by your consultations in this fair and beautiful Town, you will, I know, have played no small part in establishing an economic situation bidding well for the future peace and prosperity for all mankind in this world.