ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PERUVIAN DELEGATION,
Señor Edgardo Portaro

Mr. Mayor of the City of Torquay, Mr. Chairman of the Board of Trade, Mr. President of GATT, Messrs. Presidents of the Delegations of the High Contracting Parties, and Delegates:

As President of the Delegation of Peru, and in the name of the Delegations of the newly-adherent countries to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, it is a source of great personal satisfaction for my country to participate in this important Agreement; not only because of the concurrence of the numerous and distinguished Delegations of the principal nations of the world, but also because we are meeting in this ancient and hospitable land, whose greatness we all admire for the brilliant pages of world history which it has filled with heroic deeds.

Gentlemen, Peru is a country of great natural resources which, however, have not yet been developed sufficiently to contribute to the general welfare of humanity; nevertheless, since it possesses an economy which depends to a large degree on trade and commerce, it has a real interest in participating in this type of conference where the principal objectives are to favour commercial interchange by reducing tariff barriers rather than maintaining the rigid economic structures which have bound nations into positions that could only be broken by force of arms.

For this reason, it is well to remember that in this Conference there are convened a group of men of good will, who, in representation of their respective countries, are participating with the best of intentions and the purest of motives, to the end that the greatest concessions may be mutually made in order that world trade be stimulated and all forms of discriminatory treatment in international commerce be eliminated.

It is of great satisfaction for the delegates of the countries, which for the first time are participating in the GATT negotiations, to declare emphatically that our countries are inspired by the firm decision to be conscious of their democratic tradition which always impels them to ally themselves in the struggle for the cause of the general welfare of humanity. For these reasons, I am pleased to declare that all of our actions will be inspired by the force of this sentiment.

I am also sure that, taking into consideration the similarity of ideals held by the participating countries as well as the good will that inspires the delegations to reach a favourable accord, this Third Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade will constitute a real success, a success which at the same time will be an example demonstrating the union that exists between the nations joined by this Agreement who are striving so earnestly for the general welfare and peace of mankind.

Many thanks.