During the Ministerial meetings which have taken place at their Twelfth Session, the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, including the six Governments which have signed the Rome Treaty for the establishment of a European Economic Community, have given preliminary consideration to the new and important international relationships and problems which will arise in the field of commercial policy when the European Economic Community is established.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade makes it clear, in paragraph 4 of Article XXIV, that the CONTRACTING PARTIES have recognized the desirability of increasing freedom of trade by the development of agreements for closer integration between the economies of the countries parties to such agreements, without raising barriers to trade with other contracting parties. The Rome Treaty, in various of its provisions, looks toward the maintenance and strengthening of trade relations between the European Economic Community and parties to the General Agreement.

In order to further these common objectives the CONTRACTING PARTIES have confirmed the desirability of establishing effective and continuing co-operation between the CONTRACTING PARTIES and the Treaty Institutions of the European Economic Community.

Furthermore, the CONTRACTING PARTIES have decided to create a Committee to examine the relevant provisions of the Rome Treaty and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and to consider the most effective methods of implementing the inter-related obligations which governments have assumed in the two instruments.

The Committee will consist of representatives of all the contracting parties.