INTEREST OF POLAND IN ACCEDING TO GATT

The following was published in the Polish newspaper, Trybuna Ludu, Warsaw, on 26 April 1958. It is based on a note published by the official Polish News Agency, PAP:

"At the meeting of the heads of delegations of countries participating in the GATT, the Vice-Minister for the foreign trade, Mr. F. Hodrzewski, has given explanations related to the intention of the Polish People's Republic to accede to the GATT.

"From among thirty-seven contracting parties to the General Agreement – declared Mr. Hodrzewski – Poland has regular trade relations with twenty-seven countries. In the global turnover of the Polish foreign trade, amounting to $2,226 million the member countries of the GATT participate with $900 million.

"The rapid development of Poland's economy in the post-war period creates the need of considerable imports of raw materials, equipment and consumer goods, and these imports can be paid for only by exports. In some markets our goods meet with difficulties and Poland is vitally interested in participating in an organization which sets as its goal to facilitate commercial exchanges and international economic co-operation. The increase in exports will allow Poland to increase her imports. It therefore corresponds to the interests of the contracting parties. Poland recognizes the basic principles of non-discrimination, proclaimed by GATT."

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