STATEMENT BY MR. MOSHE BARTUR, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, ISRAELI MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IN PLenary SESSION ON 29 MAY 1959

On joining in the work of the CONTRACTING PARTIES permit me to make some brief remarks. We regard this as an important stepping stone in the evolution of Israel's economic policy which we are certain will lead to the expansion of our trade and economic relations with the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

While attending this session, we have had the opportunity to appreciate and to evaluate more fully the importance of the General Agreement.

It is certainly not easy to find a common denominator and general solution for countries in so different stages of economic development which maintain different systems of foreign trade and economic policy. Nevertheless, we were much impressed by the way progress is achieved in a spirit of tolerance and by taking account of the specific needs of each country.

My people and Government are striving towards closer relations with all countries and we shall indeed be pleased if the membership of GATT will further expand so that the ideals embodied in the Agreement which so strongly emphasize the rule of non-discrimination may spread throughout the world. This is certainly our wish in relation to our own geographic region as well as to the world as a whole, and towards this end, we will endeavour to make our modest contribution.

The Havana Charter saw as one of its main objectives "to further the enjoyment by all countries on equal terms of access to the markets, products and productive facilities which are needed for their economic prosperity and development."

In trying to realize these objectives, surely lies the way towards real international co-operation and understanding to the benefit of all. That conviction will guide our active participation in GATT.