I want to join the previous speakers in expressing the appreciation of the Norwegian delegation for the gracious hospitality and great efficiency shown by the Japanese authorities in arranging the present GATT session in Tokyo, qualities with which I personally have already had the privilege of being familiar for some time, in my capacity as Norway's diplomatic representative to Japan.

It was with great regret that Norway's Minister of Commerce, Mr. Arne Skaug, had at the last minute to cancel his personal presence at this session, because of pressing business. Consequently, I have been instructed to express the views of the Norwegian delegation on this occasion.

Among the many problems discussed here the question of achieving trade liberalization and non-discrimination has, I think, rightly taken an important place. My Government wishes to reaffirm its belief in these important principles.

We feel it is fair in this connexion to mention the great contribution to trade liberalization which has been made through hard and persistent efforts within the OEEC. Especially I want to join the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Krag, in paying tribute to the memory of the great American statesman, General Marshall, whose personal contribution, and that of his country, to the western European recovery in production and trade, will never be forgotten among Europeans.

As a result of that initiative, the OEEC and the European Payments Union were able to achieve effective and extensive trade liberalization and convertibility on a regional basis. But it was never the intention to stop there. Consequently, the liberalization of trade and the convertibility of currency have been extended by the OEEC countries to almost every part of the world. From an early stage my country has been able to extend her liberalization to practically all other parts of the world. The Norwegian liberalization which towards the OEEC countries amounted to 82 per cent, amounts to the higher figure of 92 per cent of the import from the dollar area.

We are fully aware that among our import restrictions there might remain some elements of bilateralism beyond our proper control. It is our hope that the free trading nations through GATT will achieve the kind of balance of rights and obligations which will make it possible to dispose of most of the remaining restrictions and discrimination still
hampering international trade and shipping. We have in mind the existence both inside and outside the CONTRACTING PARTIES of some exceptional cases where bilateral agreements and quantitative restrictions still appear unavoidable and justified under existing circumstances.

My statement today concerns these cases and the dilemma of solving them by enforcing strict non-discrimination only. In our opinion it will be far better to study these cases carefully and to consider measures which simultaneously correct any possible imbalance in present rights and obligations under GATT giving cause to some undesirable features.

Much can be said in favour of a joint action by competent international bodies in order to take a real hard look at the remaining restrictions and discriminations with a view to devise a proper solution for their elimination. We find it, however, worthwhile to consider the suggestion made by the representative of the United States, to undertake a further study of the problem of a sudden inflow of low priced goods on unprepared markets.

What I have just said does not lessen, of course, the importance which my Government attaches to the CONTRACTING PARTIES' programme for trade expansion. So far, Committee I has laid a good basis for new tariff negotiations in 1960-61 and we approve of the rules proposed. Furthermore, we feel that the work of Committee II shows real promise and that valuable results should come from the Committee's work. Lastly, also in the case of Committee III, some common views have been reached on the difficult problem of economic growth of the less-developed countries relative to international trade. We do, however, feel that the Committee has not yet found a sufficiently comprehensive basis leading to an enlightened policy within GATT.

The honourable representative of Sweden has given a progress report on the negotiations of a European Free Trade Association. No doubts seem to exist among the distinguished delegates assembled here as to the importance of the step to be taken by seven European countries. I believe I have discerned some caution as to the advantages for outside countries of such an Association. My delegation hopes that the fact that you among this Seven-nation group find so many countries with important world-wide interest in trade and shipping, should eliminate any fear that EFTA were to work to the detriment of outside countries and world-wide trade. In our view this is the most outward-looking integration step so far devised, and it carries with it the promise of a far-reaching liberal movement in international trade policy. My country, as an important shipping nation, could not accept it if she were not convinced that this group in its own interest will follow a liberal policy towards outside countries.

I believe there is no reason to assume that the EFTA countries individually will stand aloof during the forthcoming tariff negotiations.
In saying this, I have to point out that my Government is looking forward to an early resumption of negotiations for the wider multilateral association in Europe. A split Europe is a dangerous and unsound prospect which, we hope, does not commend itself to any of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

As a final remark, Mr. Chairman, I would like to express on behalf of my Government the hope that the CONTRACTING PARTIES, at their next session, will deal effectively with two important questions which long have been under preparation. Here I am referring to the question of dumping, and that of restrictive business practices.