GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE
Fifteenth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. ROBERTO SUAREZ BARROS,
AMBASSADOR OF CHILE TO JAPAN, AT THE PLENARY MEETING ON 29 OCTOBER 1959.

With every passing year the GATT members witness the progress made towards the elimination of obstacles to international trade and the establishment of a freer trading system which can enable them gradually to attain their fundamental objective; that is the raising of the standard of living of their peoples through the full utilization of their resources.

We have seen that most of the industrialized countries which have now restored external convertibility are preparing to eliminate the last protectionist barriers and we hope that this can be done as soon as possible, considering that obviously their justification is no longer justified.

One effective way to assist countries which are still in the early stages of their economic development is to increase our trade with them. This should not only provide them with increased means to import from industrialized countries, it should also make it possible for them to market their own products, that is to say, find access for their products to industrialized countries without quota limitations or discrimination. We believe that such a trading system is the only effective one and unless we can achieve it loans and other devices for assistance would only have a limited value.

My country which has eliminated from its foreign trade all kinds of discriminations and controls through import quotas and licences, is in urgent need to find full reciprocity on the part of the industrialized countries.

In 1959 the CONTRACTING PARTIES granted Chile the necessary waiver to enable it to implement its policy for economic recovery. These measures which are receiving the gradual successful implementation that we had expected will enable my country to negotiate for a new customs tariff on the occasion of the 1960 tariff conference. Towards the middle of next year we shall already have available the text of the new tariff which is being completed.

My country has followed with considerable attention the work of Committee II on non-tariff obstacles to imports of agricultural products. Although our agriculture is not of vital importance for our exports, nevertheless we do export in certain quantities a fairly wide range of agricultural products which, taken as a whole, are of some importance for our economy. Considering that agriculture is a sensitive sector in most countries we have no doubt that the work of Committee II will help clear up a considerable number of ideas and remedy a number of mistakes which hamper at present trade in agricultural products.
Our country has participated in the work of Committee III on the obstacles to export of primary commodities and some manufactured products from the less-developed countries.

We stated our views on these problems to Committee III and we have also contributed to the study relating to certain items which has been undertaken by the GATT secretariat. We hope that we shall meet with the necessary degree of understanding on the part of those countries which are importers of our primary commodities in order to resolve the problems which are of particular concern to us. We wish to emphasize once more that the best form of assistance which could be extended to countries like Chile consists in allowing for free entry of our goods and in achieving stability in prices, such stability to be obtained only if the industrialized countries are determined to co-operate to the attainment of these objectives with all the means in their power.

The countries, which like Chile, are only beginning to export manufactured products are confronted with a new problem.

Generally speaking they are competitive as far as quality and price considerations are concerned but domestic producers cannot enjoy the same credit facilities as their competitors in the highly industrialized countries. This is a problem that we wish to bring to the attention of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to request them to support any action which might be undertaken in order to eliminate this physical incapacity which prevents a country like Chile from meeting competition from the highly industrialized countries.

In Latin America in particular we are endeavouring to deal with this problem with the assistance of other financial bodies but we deemed it useful to submit this matter to the CONTRACTING PARTIES in order that governments may study it from all angles and help us find a solution.

Restrictions applied in our Latin American markets are determined by their size and their intake capacity and also by the relative similarity between the various stages of our economic development as a result of which some Latin American countries have had to move towards economic integration by adopting the kind of trading system which Article XXIV of GATT calls a free-trade area. On the occasion of our previous meetings we submitted information concerning progress of our discussions in this respect. The governments concerned will submit a joint statement to the CONTRACTING PARTIES at this session.

I also wish to express the satisfaction of my Government for the fact that the governments concerned have already reached the final stage in these studies which will enable Chile to take part in the proposed free-trade area while abiding by its international commitments in this field.

In concluding the Chilean delegation wishes to support those delegations which have requested that the application of Article XXXV to Japan be terminated.
We are faithful to our tradition in this matter and therefore support the suggestions for the establishment of a panel of experts to study the magnitude of the problem.

The Chilean delegation wishes on this occasion to express its profound appreciation to the Government of Japan for the cordial hospitality which has been extended to it on the occasion of the fifteenth session of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.