I would like if you will permit me, to say a few words about the action programme in general, before addressing myself more particularly to the first point in the programme.

The United Kingdom thinks it is of the first importance that industrialized countries should state clearly and firmly their wholehearted acceptance of the broad concepts of the action programme, and we ourselves intend to do so. To enable the less-developed countries to increase their trade is perhaps the biggest task before us today.

I believe that the general adoption of the action programme would make an important contribution towards discharging this task, and the British Government intends to play its full part in this.
The United Kingdom has long maintained a largely open market for the products of the less-developed countries. With some very small exceptions we have removed quota restrictions from all products wholly or mainly produced in less-developed countries. We levy no internal taxes specifically on these products. In the last two years we have removed the whole of our traditional revenue duties on coffee and cocoa. Where we impose duties they are moderate: but our imports from a very large number of countries, including the whole of the Commonwealth come in entirely free of duty. In this way we have enabled many countries to develop their trade.

As regards point (i) in the action programme - standstill provision - we have no intention of imposing new tariff or non-tariff barriers against the exports of less-developed countries. This applies equally to internal taxes levied specifically on products wholly or mainly produced in less-developed countries.

I earnestly hope that my colleagues from other industrialized countries will feel able to do the same.

I may have more to say when we get on to other points.