STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC
ON 29 MARCH 1963

In the opinion of my delegation GATT is becoming more and more an agreement which embodies countries at different stages of development. This aspect of the GATT can hardly be over-estimated and we believe that it will be truly an international organization with a multilateral and universal character. Because of this characteristic, the GATT is playing a dominant rôle in coordinating the different efforts to establish a healthy trading system in the world. The United Arab Republic in pursuing its policy of contributing actively to international co-operation in social and economic fields and specially in GATT, supported the proposal of the United States at the twentieth session. We are convinced that it is to the benefit of less-developed countries that they co-operate in improving the conditions of international trade, especially at the present time, when we are faced with many regional trading arrangements, which have significant implications for international trade.

The United Arab Republic has recently joined the General Agreement as a provisional member and we think that we may be in a good position to assist in clarifying some problems which make less-developed countries hesitant in joining the General Agreement. With regard to the practical aspects of this problem we are convinced that the provisions of the General Agreement are not well-known in less-developed countries and we think that a large publicity campaign should be organized for the General Agreement, to clarify and point out to the less-developed countries the benefits they will obtain in co-operating with the GATT and acquaint them particularly with Articles XII and XVIII which relate to those special measures which are provided in the GATT to protect their economies and safeguard their balance of payments. Further, they should be made aware that strict reciprocity will not be expected from them by the highly developed countries during tariff negotiations. The United Arab Republic is ready to provide officers to assist GATT in organizing this publicity campaign in those less-developed countries outside the GATT. I am sure that many other countries would be prepared to help in the same way if the secretariat does not have enough officers to undertake such work.
most less-developed countries, if convinced of the usefulness of co-operating with the work of GATT, do not have enough funds to maintain representatives in Geneva. It might be important to establish a special fund to allow less-developed countries thus situated to be represented in meetings of the GATT. In the meantime as a temporary measure it might be possible to allow representatives of present GATT Members to represent other less-developed countries where practicable until a solution is found. A modification of the procedures for accession to the General Agreement would be very important particularly for those less-developed countries which cannot take advantage of Article XXVI and have to take part in tariff negotiations which last for several months. These modifications should also take account of the problems of less-developed countries which have already exchanged privileges and arranged special treatment between themselves and might not be able to abandon these privileges because part of their economy is dependent on these privileges. In addition it would be very useful to enlarge the possibilities for accepting representatives of less-developed countries which are new members in the GATT training programme for government officials. In conclusion, we think that the wider the participation in GATT the more we can be sure of achieving the goals of the General Agreement.