In accordance with the terms of paragraph 2 of Article XXV of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the first session of the Contracting Parties was opened at the Capitol on 28 February last.

At that meeting, consideration was given to the desirability of inviting those countries which did not participate in the tariff negotiations held in Geneva last year to follow the first session.

Consequently, the Contracting Parties agreed that the Chairman of the First Session, Mr. D. L. Wilgress (Canada), should convey an invitation to those delegations participating in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment which did not take part in the Geneva tariff negotiations, to be represented by observers at the meetings of the Contracting Parties.