

TENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE  
OPENS AT GENEVA, THURSDAY, 27 OCTOBER 1955

The Tenth Session of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade will open at Geneva on Thursday, 27 October. It is expected to last between 5 and 6 weeks.

The Session is a regular business meeting of the Contracting Parties. A number of the matters to be dealt with arise regularly at each GATT session such as, for instance, the consultations with countries which retain import restrictions for balance of payments reasons and consultations with countries which have obtained waivers from certain obligations assumed under the Agreement. As at previous sessions, the Contracting Parties will consider complaints against measures taken by certain countries which are considered to "nullify or impair" the benefits guaranteed by the Agreement: some of these complaints were made initially at earlier sessions and reports will be made at this Session on the progress made towards resolving them; other complaints may be considered for the first time. Progress towards the simplification of certain aspects of customs formalities will, as usual, be reviewed.

A special task of this Session will be to act upon the proposals of the Intersessional Working Party for the holding of a tariff negotiating conference which would open early in 1956. The Contracting Parties may also consider the situation which has arisen in regard to the recent accession of Japan and the invoking of Article XXXV by fourteen governments.

There are 35 contracting parties to the GATT and it is expected that, in addition, a number of non-member governments and intergovernmental agencies will be represented at the Session.