twenty-three nations: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Lebanon, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Southern Rhodesia, Syria, South Africa, Britain and the United States of America.

The general agreement on tariffs and trade consists of three parts and an annex of twenty tariff schedules, one for each country, including Benelux and the Syria-Lebanon customs unions. As honourable senators know, Benelux is the composite name covering Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg, which countries are to have a customs union of their own with one signatory for all three.

Part I of the general agreement concerns the principle of most-favoured nation treatment and the application of the new tariff schedules; Part II contains the general commercial provisions which appear in Chapter IV of the draft charter now under consideration at Havana, and Part III concerns the implementation of the general agreement.

Schedule V to the general agreement is printed in the United Nations document, and separately as No. 27A in the Canada Treaty Series, 1947. It lists the new rate of duty on all products on which Canada has granted tariff concessions. The rates in Part I apply to all countries to which Canada extends most-favoured nation treatment; the rates in Part II apply to all countries which qualify for our preferential tariff.

Then there is the protocol of provisional application of the general agreement on tariffs and trade. This protocol, which appears on page 88 of the document entitled No. 27 in the Canada Treaty Series, 1947, Final Act of the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment, has been signed by eight of the twenty-three countries—Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, The United Kingdom and the United States—but remains open until June 20, 1948 for signature by the other fifteen signatories of the general agreement. For various reasons involved in the necessity of parliamentary sanction, or whatever other method of approval is employed, these fifteen countries have not yet signed the agreement, and consequently their schedules will not come into force on January 1, 1948, as will ours and those of the other seven countries which have signed the protocol.

The signatories of this protocol agree to apply, provisionally, Parts I and III of the general agreement—which relate to tariff concessions; and to apply Part II—which relates to commercial practices—"to the fullest extent not inconsistent with existing legislation." Signatories may withdraw from the protocol on sixty days' notice. In other words, if the signatories of the respective administrations cannot secure the necessary governmental sanction upon giving sixty days' notice, they can withdraw.

Supplementary agreements appear in appendices A and B of the document entitled No. 27 in the Canada Treaty Series, 1947, pages 91-107. Appendix A consists of an agreement between Canada and the United States of America, supplementary to the general agreement of October 30, 1947, on tariffs and trade, together with an exchange of letters and a note from the Canadian government to the United States government concerning the amendment of the customs tariff of 1907. Appendix B consists of an exchange of notes between Canada and the United Kingdom relating to the trade agreement between the two countries of February 23, 1937, and to the general agreement on tariffs and trade of October 30, 1947. Honourable senators will appreciate that these have to do with the reconciliation of agreements made between Canada and the United Kingdom and between Canada and the United States, in regard to the various treaties already in existence.

I hope the fullest possible details will be made available to this house. It seems to me to be desirable that this resolution and the related documents should be considered in conjunction with complementary moves that have been taken or may be taken in the effort to remove as completely as possible all barriers to international trade. Ever since the Atlantic Charter the United Nations have been hammering out agreements for co-operation in trade and currency matters, to the end that as far as possible the mistakes made after the last war should not be repeated. These efforts have resulted in: (1) the International Monetary Fund—intended to prevent competitive exchange depreciation, to stabilize exchange rates and to help nations in balance-of-payment difficulties; (2) the International Bank for Reconstruction—the purpose of which is to revive international lending on a large scale for such productive purposes as reconstruction and industrial agreement; and (3) this general agreement on tariffs and trade—a concrete step toward reduced tariffs, preferences, restrictions and discrimination. And at the moment there is being considered in Havana the I.T.O. draft charter, a blueprint of the free, non-discriminatory multilateral trading world toward which the nations are committed to move. Should drafting of that charter be attended with success, matters