

which took place here in Geneva in 1947. This is a considerable period of time. My delegation recognizes, with others, that we must provide in an orderly way for the readjustment of individual tariff items, from time to time, as special circumstances arise. It is of crucial importance, however, to avoid a situation in which the governments concerned might make widespread and substantial withdrawals of tariff concessions from one another. In that direction would lie trade wars, which it is one of the central purposes of the GATT to avoid. I was happy to see, from the opening speeches of this Session, that most governments share this view.

On a closely related subject, it is important that individual governments, by their own actions, should observe all of their GATT-commitments, which are designed to safeguard the integrity of tariff concessions. There is an increasing tendency for governments to adopt seemingly minor measures of evasion and this tendency should be checked. Through measures of taxation, for example, governments can sometimes frustrate the intent of tariff agreements. It is to be hoped that the Contracting Parties will devote careful attention to this problem.

A further task of this Review Session is to strengthen the organization arrangements, which provide for the administration of the General Agreement. Most of the Contracting Parties to the GATT are also members of the International Monetary Fund, which deals with international financial matters. We need a similar organization, equal in status to the International Monetary Fund, to deal with international trade and tariff matters. This organization should not be too large but it should aspire to a high level of competence in its field.

My delegation shares the prevalent view that the Contracting Parties have outgrown their present administrative arrangements. Our periodic Sessions are already becoming insufficient to cope with the flow of problems. Our general conferences should be supplemented by a representative executive committee, capable of meeting frequently and at short notice. In the new conditions to which we are looking forward, there will be a continuing need for the new GATT organization to move quickly and effectively into problem situations, as these arise, with services of consultation and arbitration. This in itself points to the need for improvements in organizational arrangements.

My delegation shares the respect in which we all hold the Executive Secretary and his associates. They have performed valiant services during difficult times. We appreciate the fact that this has been done on an exceptionally low budget, in comparison with other international organizations. This is a matter of real significance to our taxpayers. To meet