The final date for acceptance stipulated in the Geneva (1979) Protocol and in the Supplementary Protocol was 30 June 1980. The Council on 18 June 1980 decided to extend the time-limit for the acceptance of the Protocols until 31 December 1980 (BISD 27S/9); on 24 November 1980 the CONTRACTING PARTIES decided to extend the time-limit until 30 June 1981 (BISD 27S/10), the Council, on 11 June 1981, decided to extend the time-limit until 31 December 1981 (L/5159) and the CONTRACTING PARTIES, on 23 November 1981 (L/5242), decided to further extend the time-limit until 30 June 1982.

It has now become clear that one contracting party which has a schedule annexed to the Supplementary Protocol will not be able to accept this Protocol before the expiry of the extended time-limit. The following draft decision extending further the time-limit for acceptance of the Supplementary Protocol is therefore proposed for consideration by the Council:

"Considering that the Protocol Supplementary to the Geneva (1979) Protocol to the GATT has not yet been accepted by all contracting parties which have schedules of tariff concessions annexed to this Protocol,

"Considering the established GATT practice according to which the CONTRACTING PARTIES or the Council, under such circumstances have authority to decide on an extension of the time-limit for the acceptance of such Protocol and other instruments of a similar nature in case of compelling need,

"Recalling that the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 23 November 1981 decided to extend the time-limit for the acceptance of the Protocol until 30 June 1982,

"The Council of Representatives

"Decide to extend further the time-limit of the said Protocol until 31 December 1982, and

"Urge the contracting party which has a schedule annexed to the said Protocol and has not yet accepted it to make every effort to do so in the near future."