A request by the Government of Thailand for an extension of the period to take steps to bring into line with Article III of the General Agreement, the business and excise taxes with respect to items on which the incidence of these taxes varies according to whether the items are locally produced or imported, has been circulated in document L/6176. To facilitate the consideration by the Council of this request, the following draft decision has been prepared by the secretariat.

Noting that paragraph 3 of the Protocol of Accession of Thailand to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, dated 21 October 1982, states that Thailand intends to bring into line with Article III of the General Agreement, the business and excise taxes with respect to items on which the incidence of these taxes varies according to whether the items are locally produced or imported and will endeavour to do so as soon as possible in the light of the provisions of Part IV, and in particular Thailand's development, financial and trade needs; and that if by 30 June 1987, the incidence of the above-mentioned taxes still varied as between locally produced and imported items, the matter would be reviewed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES;

Noting that the Government of Thailand has taken steps to align the rates of the business and excise taxes applied to a number of domestically produced goods with those rates applicable to like imported goods; and

Considering that the Government of Thailand is in the process of introducing a value-added tax system which will replace the business taxes and bring about uniform rates for locally produced and imported items and that the Government of Thailand has requested an extension of the period to bring into line with Article III of the General Agreement the rates of the aforesaid business and excise taxes with respect to the remaining items;

The CONTRACTING PARTIES decide to extend until [date to be inserted] the time-limit established in paragraph 3 of the Protocol of Accession of Thailand to enable the Government of Thailand to take steps to bring into line with Article III of the General Agreement the business and excise taxes with respect to the remaining items on which the incidence of these taxes varies according to whether the items are locally produced or imported. If by the above mentioned date, these taxes are still in effect with differential rates for imported items, the matter shall be reviewed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES.