A communication from the Government of Uruguay concerning the application of import surcharges has been circulated in document L/6184. The following draft decision, extending until 30 June 1988 the validity of the waiver granted to Uruguay on 24 October 1972 (BISD 19S/9), and successively extended until 30 June 1987, is circulated in order to facilitate the consideration by the Council of the communication from the Government of Uruguay.

Considering the Decision taken by the CONTRACTING PARTIES under paragraph 5 of Article XXV on 24 October 1972\(^1\) to waive, subject to the terms and conditions laid down in the Decision, the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article II of the General Agreement to the extent necessary to allow the Government of Uruguay to apply the import surcharges which were effectively applied on 31 May 1972, the validity of which Decision was, by successive decisions by the CONTRACTING PARTIES, extended until 30 June 1987\(^2\);

Considering that the Government of Uruguay has been simplifying its import tax system, a part of which efforts was the entry into force on 1 January 1978 of the Single Customs Tax\(^3\) incorporating the surcharges, together with a time-table for reduction of rates\(^4\), and considering that four such reductions have taken place\(^5\);

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\(^1\) BISD 19S/9
\(^2\) L/6029
\(^3\) L/4646
\(^4\) L/4808
\(^5\) L/4808, L/5025, L/5824 and C/M/212, item 2.

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Considering that the Government of Uruguay is engaged in a difficult and complex process of simplification, reduction and harmonization of its import tariff through the application of a unified tax to be applied on the customs value, and that it expects to submit a proposed new Schedule XXXI to be examined under the relevant GATT procedures;

Considering that this task has progressed well and that a statistical breakdown of import trade in the framework of GATT was now available and will constitute an important element for possible negotiations of the adjusted Uruguayan schedule;

Considering that the Government of Uruguay has requested an extension of the above-mentioned Decision until 30 June 1988;

The CONTRACTING PARTIES acting pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 5 of Article XXV of the General Agreement,

Decide that the Government of Uruguay be authorized to maintain the surcharges at present applied by it, subject to the terms and conditions of the Decision of 24 October 1972, until 30 June 1988.