COMMUNICATION FROM TUNISIA

The following communication, dated 11 August 1981, received from the Permanent Mission of Tunisia is circulated to participating countries subject to the requirements of confidentiality.

I have the honour to request you to present to the Spanish delegation to GATT a request for tariff concessions in favour of Tunisian exports within the framework of the Protocol Relating to Trade Negotiations among Developing Countries, to which Tunisia and Spain are parties, and under which the two countries exchange tariff preferences.

Possibilities have been found for placing on the Spanish market phosphatic fertilizers manufactured in Tunisia.

The products concerned include in particular diammonium phosphate (DAP), monoammonium phosphate (MAP), triple superphosphate (TSP) and dicalcium phosphate (DCP).

Nevertheless, placement of our products is handicapped in relation to other competitors because of the absence of tariff concessions in this market. In this connexion it should be noted that in Spain these products are subject to an m.f.n. duty of 10 to 16 per cent, and Community exports to that country enjoy a tariff reduction of the order of 25 per cent.

The Tunisian authorities are presenting a request to the Spanish delegation because of the potentialities that this market offers for placing larger quantities of Tunisian phosphatic fertilizers.

The concession requested would be exemption from customs duties, or at least alignment with the treatment accorded to fertilizers originating in the EEC.

In this connexion, it should be noted that over the past four years Tunisia's exports of fertilizers to Spain have been in small quantities, as follows:
- 1977: 4,159 tons, value D 291,000
- 1978: 1,900 tons, value D 138,000
- 1979: 2,500 tons, value D 172,000
- 1980: 1,464 tons, value D 134,000

Lastly, it should be underlined that at the last session of the joint Tunisian-Spanish committee, held at Tunis from 4 to 6 June 1981, Spain declared its readiness to engage in negotiations with Tunisia on the basis of the above-mentioned Protocol with a view to granting tariff preferences on products of special interest to Tunisia, such as fertilizers.