The following communication, dated 22 June 1992, has been sent by the Permanent Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities to the Permanent Missions of Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Venezuela in Geneva.

Referring to your letters dated 12 and 16 June 1992, the Commission of the European Communities has the pleasure to inform you that it can accept to hold consultations with your government on the import regime for bananas in the European Communities. We look forward to your suggestions on the date for these consultations.

As far as the existing national measures are concerned, your letter of 16 June 1992 gives some indications as to your preoccupations. However, it would be helpful if you would also indicate which rights under the General Agreement are in your view affected by the operation of these national measures.

As you know from informal consultations already held with representatives of your government in Brussels, the future common import regime for bananas is presently under preparation and a formal proposal by the Commission to the Council of the European Communities has yet to be made. Such proposal is a prerequisite for a legislative measure to be adopted by the Council under the internal rules governing the adoption of legal instruments in the Communities. The present preparatory work can therefore not be considered as a measure under Articles XXII:1 or XXIII:1 of the General Agreement allowing for formal consultations under one of these provisions. The consultations on the future common import regime should therefore continue to be held as informal consultations.