A news agency report dated 27 May quotes "international trade officials" as saying that the current multilateral trade negotiations "may have to be shelved", and that "talks have already begun between the United States, Japan and the Common Market, with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) participating, on the possible outlines of a smaller package agreement".

The GATT secretariat is not the source of this report. The secretariat has not initiated, or participated in, any discussions of the kind described, nor has it any knowledge of such discussions. The work on the multilateral trade negotiations is proceeding on schedule.