The following communication dated 26 June 1980 has been received from the Permanent Mission of Austria.

Upon instructions by my authorities I have the honour to send to you the following information on actions by Austria concerning GSP and tropical products:

(1) "1 July 1980" is the "commencing date" for the duty reductions by the EFTA countries under the Agreement between the EFTA countries and Spain, as well as under the Agreement between Austria and Spain in Trade with Agricultural Products. With effect from the same date, Spain will be deleted from the list of beneficiaries under the Austrian Scheme of Generalized Preferences (Group II of Annex C to the Austrian Tariff Preference Act).

(2) On 1 July 1980 Austria will implement the first two stages of duty reductions under the Geneva (1979) Protocol to the GATT. The Austrian formula for calculation of the tariff cuts under the GSP will be applied also to the m.f.n. rates thus reduced. As a consequence, GSP rates of duty in the Austrian Customs Tariff will be reduced accordingly. This improvement of the Austrian Scheme of Generalized Preferences results in reduced tariff rates for about 1,900 tariff lines.

(3) In consultations held within the framework of the MTN, developing countries made requests for duty reductions additional to those implemented within the Group "Tropical Products". On the basis of these requests, Austria has now decided to implement on 1 July 1980 preferential tariff reductions on the following items:
ex 08.10 Dates, preserved by freezing, not containing added sugar 6 per cent

16.04 B, A1B5 Other prepared or preserved fish in airtight containers 5 300.- per 100 kg

ex 20.01 C Mango chutney free

(4) In addition, for roasted coffee (tariff heading 09.01 B) and for extracts of coffee, solid (tariff heading 21.02 A), the preferential rates will be further reduced as from 1 July 1980. The rates were originally fixed at 20 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively.

The new GSP rates are as follows:

09.01 Coffee, whether or not roasted or freed of caffeine; coffee husks and skins; coffee substitutes containing coffee in any proportion:

B - roasted 12 per cent

21.02 A Extracts of coffee, solid 10 per cent

The new or further reduced GSP rates of duty as mentioned in paragraphs 3 and 4 above will be applied on preferential imports from countries listed in Group I of Annex C to the Austrian Tariff Preference Act.