COMMUNICATION FROM ZIMBABWE

The following communication, dated 26 August 1986, has been received by the Director-General from the Delegation of Zimbabwe with the request that it be circulated to all Contracting Parties.

I am instructed by my Government to thank you for a copy of document PREP.COM(86)W/50 which you kindly made available to all Contracting Parties. We encourage your intentions as Director-General to reconcile the apparently disparate views of the Contracting Parties on the key issues facing the anticipated new round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. Our view is that your task would be difficult but feasible as such we stand ready to co-operate with you in your noble endeavours.

While acknowledging that the note referred to above was prepared entirely under your responsibility, for the record, we wish to assert that all the documents that the Preparatory Committee has forwarded to the Ministerial Session of the Contracting Parties are of an equal status and in the interest of facilitating a convergence of views it may not be opportune to speculate directly or indirectly on the preferential status of the Contracting Parties as a whole on any of the documents among those that has so far been tabled.

We wish to recall that in the Preparatory Committee Meeting of 30 July 1986, the Zimbabwe delegation expressed its desire for an opportunity to engage in an exercise that would attempt a synthesis of the different texts including PREP.COM(86)W/47/Rev.2 which was presented a few hours before the dissolution of the Preparatory Committee. The logical lack of convergence therefore that obtained just before the closure of business reflected not a failure of "great efforts" to reconcile positions as indicated in your PREP.COM(86)W/50 but rather a regrettable failure to accommodate such a process within the time frame that was available to the Preparatory Committee.

Since document PREP.COM(86)W/50 has been circulated we feel very strongly that the Director-General through a media of his choice should apprise the Ministers of the objective circumstances that prevented the Preparatory Committee from evolving a common text for the Punta del Este Session. Furthermore, we request that this letter be circulated to all Contracting Parties.