The following communication, dated 21 October 1991, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Austria.

On January 1990, Austria had autonomously implemented substantial tariff reductions for a great number of tariff lines where rates could be considered as still relatively high. These tariff reductions were implemented in one step without staging on a provisional basis until 31 December 1991. They were meant as an "advance contribution" to the results of the Uruguay Round's multilateral tariff reduction exercise. About 38% of overall imports of manufactures are covered.

At the time of notification of these measure (Doc. L/6509 of 30 May 1989) Austria declared her willingness to negotiate the inclusion of these tariff reductions in her Schedule of Tariff Concessions. In fact, these autonomous tariff reductions were worked into the Austrian tariff offer as revised in October 1990. Austria is still prepared to bind all offered tariff reductions depending on a satisfactory overall balance of advantages.

In order to allow for sufficient time to continue and conclude negotiations, the autonomous provisional tariff reductions have been extended for a further period of two years until 31 December 1993 (Federal Law Gazette Nr. 414/1991).

1See document L/6509 for the list of tariff lines.