TRADE MEASURES AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA
FOR NON-ECONOMIC REASONS

Statement by the Delegation
of the European Communities

Milan, a six-year-old, asked his mother one day, "Is Tudjman really a
Croat, a 100-per-cent Croat?" "Yes, he is completely Croatian", replied
Jasmina, "but he could just as easily be Serbian, Macedonian, English or
French, American, Ukrainian or Russian ...". "Oh good," said the child
with relief, "because Daddy and Grandpa are Croatian and I love them both."

Like most children in Croatia and elsewhere in "Yugoslavia", Milan is
haunted by the war and now only draws armed soldiers and battlefields. But
as the child of a mixed marriage, he has an additional obsession: his
father is Croatian and his mother Serbian. Looking at things from his
six-year-old's standpoint, Milan wants more than anything else to reconcile
the unreconcilable. To keep things as they are in his family, he
instinctively stays in the middle and refuses to take sides. We can only
hope that the unreconcilable will not become the unbearable.

This is a true story: a tragedy occurring among countless other
sufferings over in "Yugoslavia".

Out of respect for Milan, and out of respect for the men and women who
are suffering and dying, this debate in the CONTRACTING PARTIES should be
marked by dignity, sobriety and humility.

Nothing justifies violence.

Nothing justifies intolerance, which breeds violence.

While there is no problem that does not have a solution, no solution
is viable by means of weapons and violence.

Violence provokes violence, with bitterness besides. Violence is
contagious. Violence is destabilising. Violence creates insecurity.

This is a hellish vicious circle, and it must be broken.
The response of the Community and its member States to violence, intolerance and irrationality is a peaceful one: recourse to trade measures based on Article XXI of the General Agreement (Security Exceptions), as notified on 2 December in document L/6948.

It is to be hoped that these peaceful measures will act as a deterrent, if not in intellectual then in economic terms: even if they do not have a direct impact on the battlefield, at least they will have an effect on people's hearts and common-sense. These trade measures, accompanied by humanitarian actions of the Community as a whole as well as individual countries, are being and will continue to be adjusted in line with developments in the situation and on behalf of the men and women who are suffering and being torn apart.

As far as recourse to the provisions of Article XXI is concerned, the Community remains faithful to the principle it has advocated and observed: discretionary action does not mean arbitrary action.

In the present case, the name and the aim of its action are one: PEACE.