TRADE IN PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

Record of Discussion

Communication from Australia

The following communication has been received from the delegation of Australia.

I have the honour to refer to document L/7430, dated 25 March 1994, containing the record of discussion of the representatives of the governments concerned on the treatment of pharmaceutical products.

In connection with that record of discussion, Australia did not agree to being included in the list of countries which "came to the conclusions" set out in that document. The document was submitted to the Secretariat for issue to CPs prior to our delegation having the opportunity to receive final instructions on our participation. Subsequent to circulation of L/7430 we wish to confirm that we do not wish to be a participant to the agreement set out therein and Australia should be deleted from the list of such. We were an interested participant in the informal plurilateral discussions which produced the "Record of Discussions" but had always reserved our final position on participating in the outcome on technical classifications. In any case, Australia's intention was clear at that time because the L/ document was not referenced in our Final Schedule of Uruguay Round Concessions and Commitments.

Notwithstanding that we did not wish to participate in the outcome covered by that document, Australia has made a trade weighted cut of 87 percent and will bind 93 percent of tariff lines at zero for pharmaceuticals through its Uruguay Round Schedule.

I am kindly requesting you to bring this communication to the attention of the Uruguay Round participants, as an addendum to the above-mentioned document L/7430.