The following communication has been received from the delegations of Sri Lanka and Nigeria.

In the meeting of the Preparatory Committee held on 10 June 1982, our delegations had suggested that the following topic should be included in the agenda for the Ministerial meeting of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to be held in November 1982: exports of goods banned from sale in their country of origin.

The following paragraphs contain the justification for inclusion of the topic in Part 2 of the document now under consideration in the Preparatory Committee:

A large number of products which are banned from sale in their country of origin because of their harmful effects on the health and safety of the people, are being increasingly marketed abroad. Though it is difficult to assess the magnitude of such trade, it is believed that apart from pharmaceuticals and drugs, several hazardous chemicals, pesticides, insecticides and other products, prohibited to be sold in the producing countries, are exported mostly to developing countries. Indeed, the risks to which such trade exposes the people in the importing countries are too well known to need further elaboration.

The problems and issues relating to trade in such products have in recent years received the attention of not only consumer associations in the exporting and importing countries, but also of organizations like the OECD. At the technical level, some discussion has also taken place in the UN specialized agencies like WHO and FAO with regard to the products which fall within the area of their competence.
The proposed solutions might include, inter alia, the acceptance of an obligation by contracting parties to ban exports of products which are prohibited to be sold in their domestic markets, or advance notification to the customs authorities in the importing countries that the products being exported are banned from sale in the exporting country.

Since the problems of trade in such products are of a general nature and affect the interests of a large number of countries, it is necessary to have an in-depth examination of the issues involved in the GATT, which has both the competence and legal framework to pursue work in this area.