The following communication dated 17 November 1989 has been received from the Permanent Mission of Israel with the request that it be circulated to the contracting parties and considered by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their forty-fifth session.

Following the Decision taken by the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 24 July 1989, to extend until 31 December 1989 the suspension of the provisions of Article II of the General Agreement with regard to Israel's new Schedule XLII (L/6545), intensive work is being carried out by the competent authorities in Israel, in order to prepare the Harmonized System documentation necessary for the renegotiations under Article XXVIII of the General Agreement.

However, due to technical difficulties, it has not yet been possible to complete and distribute it to the contracting parties as foreseen.

The required documentation according to the guidelines provided for in document L/5470/Rev.1 is about to be finalized, and it is hoped that it will soon be circulated to contracting parties.

In order to enable Israel to finalize the necessary documentation for the negotiations and consultations with interested contracting parties in accordance with paragraphs 1-3 of Article XXVIII, the Government of Israel therefore requests a temporary extension of the exemption from its obligations under Article II of the General Agreement until 30 June 1990.

To facilitate consideration of this matter, the text of a draft decision is annexed.
ANNEX

ISRAEL - ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHEDULE XLII

Draft Decision on Extension of Time-Limit

Considering that the CONTRACTING PARTIES, by Decision of 3 December 1987, suspended until 30 June 1988 the application of the provisions of Article II of the General Agreement to enable the Government of Israel to implement the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System) on 1 January 1988 and carry out negotiations subsequently;

Considering that, by successive Decisions, the CONTRACTING PARTIES extended the time-limit for the completion of the negotiations or consultations to be conducted by the Government of Israel until 31 December 1989;

Considering that intensive work is being carried out by the competent authorities in Israel in order to prepare the required Harmonized System documentation necessary for the renegotiations under Article XXVIII.

Noting that, owing to technical difficulties, it has not yet been possible for the Government of Israel to complete and distribute the required documentation as foreseen, and carry out negotiations and consultations under Article XXVIII before the expiry date;

Noting that the required documentation according to the guidelines provided for in document L/5470/Rev.1 is in a final stage of preparation and that it is hoped to circulate it to contracting parties as soon as possible;

Considering that the Government of Israel has requested a further extension of the exemption from its obligations under Article II of the General Agreement until 30 June 1990;

The CONTRACTING PARTIES, acting pursuant to the provisions of Article XXV:5 of the General Agreement,

Decide, in view of the exceptional circumstances, to extend the time-limit, provided for in the Decision of 3 December 1987, until 30 June 1990.