The Director-General has received the following communication, dated 23 November 1990, from the Permanent Representative in Europe of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration.

I have the honour to request, on behalf of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, that the Bank be granted observer status to the annual sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the GATT, as well as to meetings of the Council and its subsidiary bodies.

The Bank was created by the five Central American governments (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica) at the beginning of the Central American Common Market (CACM) in December 1960, to promote the economic integration and development of its members. The Bank has recently opened a permanent mission in Geneva. It is believed that the establishment of a closer relation with the GATT and its activities will be beneficial for the CACM and the Bank's member countries.

It would be appreciated if this request were placed before the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their forthcoming Forty-Sixth Session.