The following communication dated 8 November 1991 has been received from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh with the request that it be circulated to the contracting parties and considered by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their forty-seventh session.

I have the honour to refer to the Decision taken by the Contracting Parties on 12 August 1991, as contained in document L/6898 to grant Bangladesh an extension until 31 December 1991 of the waiver from its obligations under Article II of the General Agreement in regard to the establishment of a new Schedule LXX. Bangladesh is pleased to inform that she has already circulated the required Harmonized System documentation in document SECRET/HS/29, dated 6 December 1990, and that a number of contracting parties have already contacted Bangladesh for consultations and negotiations.

Because of the pre-occupation with the Uruguay Round, it has not been possible for us to begin negotiations and it would not be possible to complete the said consultations and negotiations by 31 December 1991.

Bangladesh, therefore, requests another extension up to 30 June 1992 to complete the necessary consultations and negotiations in co-operation with concerned contracting parties.

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

BANGLADESH - ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHEDULE LXX

Draft Decision on Extension of Time-Limit

Considering that the CONTRACTING PARTIES, by Decision of 18 July 1988, suspended the application of the provisions of Article II of the General Agreement to the extent necessary to enable the Government of Bangladesh to implement the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System) on 1 July 1988 and carry out negotiations subsequently;

Considering that, by successive Decisions, the CONTRACTING PARTIES extended the time-limit of the waiver granted to Bangladesh until 31 December 1991;

Considering that the required HS documentation for renegotiations under Article XXVIII has been submitted to the secretariat and circulated to the contracting parties on 6 December 1990;

Noting that a number of contracting parties have already contacted Bangladesh for consultations and negotiations but that, because of the pre-occupation of the Uruguay Round, it has not been possible for Bangladesh to begin these negotiations;

Considering that, however, it will not be possible for Bangladesh to carry out these negotiations and consultations before the end of the year;

Noting that the Government of Bangladesh has, therefore, requested a further extension of the exemption from its obligations under Article II of the General Agreement until 30 June 1992;

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 18 July 1988, until 30 June 1992.

1BISD 35S/34B.
2L/6898.