The following communication dated 18 November 1991 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-seventh session.

The CONTRACTING PARTIES, by successive decisions, suspended until 31 December 1991 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 on 1 January 1988 and carry out negotiations subsequently.

The required Harmonized System documentation necessary for the renegotiations under Article XXVIII is now in the final stage of preparation and will be submitted to the GATT secretariat towards the end of this month.

There have been no changes in the tariff rates of bound items.

To comply with the procedures and complete the negotiation process required under Article XXVIII a further extension of the time-limit is requested until 30 June 1992.

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

ISRAEL - ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHEDULE XLII

Draft Decision

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 1991;

Considering that the necessary documentation for the renegotiations under Article XXVIII of the General Agreement is in the final stage of preparation and will be submitted in the very near future;

Noting that the Government of Israel has indicated that there had been no changes in the bound rates.

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 1992 in order to carry out the necessary consultations and negotiations under Article XXVIII;

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 1992.

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1 BISD 345/29.
2 L/6897.