The following communication dated 17 November 1992 has been received from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh.

I have the honour to refer to the Decision taken by the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 20 July 1992, as contained in document L/7053, to grant Bangladesh an extension until 31 December 1992 of the waiver from its obligations under Article II of the General Agreement in regard to the establishment of a new Schedule LXX.

We are pleased to inform that we have already circulated the required Harmonized System documentation in document SECRET/HS/29, dated 6 December 1990, and that a number of contracting parties are already in communication with Bangladesh for consultations and negotiations.

We are expecting to commence consultations and negotiations with interested contracting parties soon. However, owing to difficulties of a technical nature and pre-occupation with the Uruguay Round, it will not be possible to make visible progress in negotiations by 31 December 1992.

Bangladesh, therefore, requests another extension up to 30 June 1993 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 1992;

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 difficulties of a technical nature, 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 1993;

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 1993.

1BISD 35S/34B.
2L/7053.