The following communication, dated 9 November 1992, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Israel.

The CONTRACTING PARTIES, by successive decisions, suspended until 31 December 1992 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 documentation with regard to the Harmonized System was submitted to the GATT Secretariat and was circulated as SECRET/HS/31 on 22 January 1992.

At the end of the prescribed ninety days, three requests for consultations under Article XXVIII were received. Those consultations are still in progress. In order to complete the process under Article XXVIII, an extension of the time-limit is requested until 30 June 1993.

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 1992;

Considering that the necessary documentation for the renegotiations under Article XXVIII of the General Agreement was circulated to the contracting parties with document SECRET/HS/31 on 22 January 1992;

Noting that at the end of the prescribed ninety days three requests for consultations were received and that these consultations are still in progress;

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 1993 in order to finalize 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 1993.

1BISD 34S/29.
2L/7058.