Amendment to text of Article 17 recommended in Working Party Report
(Suggested by the delegation of the United Kingdom)

"2. (e) Prior international obligations shall not be permitted to stand in the way of negotiations with respect to preferences.

Prior international obligations shall not be invoked to frustrate the requirement under paragraph 1 of this Article to negotiate with respect to preferences, it being understood that agreements which result from such negotiations and which conflict with such obligations shall not require the modification or termination of such obligations except (i) with the consent of the parties to such obligations, or, in the absence of such consent, (ii) by modification or termination of such obligations in accordance with their terms."

Add the following interpretative note to paragraph 1:

"In view of the condition that all agreements under this Article are to be on a reciprocal and mutually advantageous basis, the phrase 'carry out negotiations' appearing in paragraph 1 of this Article does not mean that agreements must invariably result from negotiations which have been initiated."