COMMUNICATION FROM INDONESIA

The Director-General has received the following communication, dated 18 November 1986, from the delegation of Indonesia on behalf of Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia with the request that it be circulated to the members of the Group of Negotiations on Goods.

TROPICAL PRODUCTS — TRADE NEGOTIATING PLAN

The Negotiating Group on Tropical Products shall pursue negotiations according to the following trade negotiating plan.

OBJECTIVES

1. Negotiations shall aim at the fullest liberalization of trade in tropical products, including in their processed and semi-processed forms and shall cover both tariff and all non-tariff measures affecting trade in these products.

NEGOTIATING PRINCIPLES

2. The negotiations shall be conducted in accordance with Section B of the Ministerial Declaration launching the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, particularly paragraphs iv and v thereof.

STANDSTILL AND ROLLBACK

3. Participants reaffirm their commitments on Standstill and Rollback under Section C of the Ministerial Declaration. They recognize that full adherence to said commitments is a prerequisite to ensuring the successful outcome of the negotiations.

MODALITIES

4. In pursuance of the recognition by the CONTRACTING PARTIES of the importance of trade in tropical products to a large number of less developed contracting parties, and the agreement that negotiations in this area shall receive special attention, including the timing of the negotiations and the implementation of the results as provided for in Section B (ii) of the Declaration, the Negotiating Group on Tropical Products shall immediately organize its work according to the timetable set out below. In addition, the ...
GATT secretariat is requested to prepare a consolidated background paper on the proceedings and results of the consultations on tropical products held under the auspices of the Committee on Trade and Development before and after the decision of the GATT Ministerial Meeting of 1982 on Tropical Products; an inventory of tariff and all non-tariff measures affecting trade in these products, including in their processed and semi-processed forms; and, the data base for the negotiations, including the most recently available statistics.

CALENDAR

5. The Negotiating Group on Tropical Products shall commence negotiations by January 1987. It shall organize its programme of work according to the following timetable. It shall meet at least once a month* and shall meet more frequently as required. The Group shall meet on 19 December 1986 to elect its Chairman.

- By February 1987, the Group shall have completed consideration of the factual basis for the negotiations.

- By the first half of 1987, the Group shall have completed consideration of negotiating techniques and procedures, i.e. on tariff and all non-tariff measures.

- Early in the second half of 1987, the tabling of requests/offers/texts shall begin. The negotiations proper shall, at the earliest, be concluded by the end of 1987 or at the latest, early in 1988.

- By 1988, agreements and commitments shall be implemented according to agreed arrangements.

REVIEWS AND EVALUATIONS

6. In the course of its work, the Group shall hold special sessions to review the progress of the negotiations. These reviews shall complement the evaluations by the GNG, as set out under Section G of the Ministerial Declaration, of the results of the negotiations in terms of the Objectives and the General Principles Governing Negotiations.

*The duration of the monthly meetings shall be determined by the Chairman of the Negotiating Group on Tropical Products in consultations with delegations and the GATT secretariat.