The following communication, dated 10 October 1990, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Bolivia.

1. During its recent process of accession to the General Agreement, Bolivia bound its entire Customs Tariff at 40 per cent (apart from a group of capital goods bound at 30 per cent). This level of global binding is the lowest of all those agreed during processes of accession to the General Agreement.

2. Furthermore, in August of this year Bolivia reduced its customs duties from 17 per cent to 10 per cent for all products in the Tariff with the exception of capital goods, for which the duties had already been reduced from 10 per cent to 5 per cent in January of this year.

3. These tariff reductions are autonomous, and in line with the Bolivian Government's purpose of smoothing obstacles and facilitating international trade. This objective was incorporated in the thoroughgoing structural adjustment programme begun in 1985, at which time a revised trade policy was introduced, together with a large initial reduction in customs duties. These were subsequently again reduced in August 1986 (to 20 per cent in general) and in March 1988 (to 10 per cent for capital goods).

Thus, considering only the reductions adopted since 1986, Bolivia has reduced its tariffs by more than 60 per cent.
4. These measures are a reaffirmation of the country's trade policy characterized by openness, non-discrimination and great transparency, as well as complete freedom of import and export - restricted solely on grounds of public health and safety - with a simplified tariff structure that has only two levels (10 per cent and 5 per cent) and is virtually free of non-tariff restrictions.

5. Bolivia considers that both the global binding of its Tariff as well as the above-mentioned large general reductions in its customs duties, by an amount which is double the target set for these negotiations, constitute per se important contributions to the Uruguay Round, especially bearing in mind that they are made by a relatively less developed country.

6. For these substantive reasons, Bolivia requests that the negotiating groups of the Uruguay Round, and particularly the market access groups, recognize this effort as Bolivia's effective contribution to the Uruguay Round.

7. The recognition which Bolivia requests is in keeping with the spirit prevailing in the Round of giving credit for the effort made by developing countries in their process of accession during this Round of multilateral negotiations. This intention was spelled out in the Mid-Term agreements (Montreal) in the sense that credit should be given for bindings, as well as "appropriate recognition for liberalization measures adopted since 1 June 1986" (document MTN.TNC/11/Rev.1, page 4).