The following communication, dated 15 October 1990, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Tanzania.

15 October Deadline for Offers including Agriculture, Textiles, Natural Resource-Based Products, Tropical Products, Tariffs and Non-Tariff Measures

I write to say that, recalling Part I of the Punta del Este Declaration which was mindful of the negative effects of prolonged financial and monetary instability in the world economy, the indebtedness of a large number of less developed contracting parties and considering the linkage between trade, money, finance and development as well as the General Principles governing negotiations under "B" of Part I, with particular reference to its circumstances of developing and least developed contracting parties as formulated in (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) of Section B:

Tanzania is not in a position to make any offers relating to access to its markets in respect of the items mentioned in the heading of this communication.

Indeed since the inception of the Uruguay Round, the course of negotiations has become increasingly unbalanced against the interests of Tanzania and other developing countries in a comparable stage of underdevelopment. Furthermore, the external environment has experienced sharp deterioration following extreme volatility in the exchange rates,
sustained high interest rates further compounded by the sharp increase in the price of imported fuel. These will inevitably further increase in cost of imports of essential items as these too bear the higher cost of fuel in production and in transporting these items.

Indeed my Government has been compelled to hypothecate the proceedings of the sale of coffee to a consortium of twelve banks which have agreed to finance up to $40 million of oil imports at current unconscionable high prices. This arrangement and similar to come will pre-empt our very limited capacity to import even other essential inputs.

For precisely these very reasons, Tanzania continues to assume that whatever products it can export will be given unhindered access into the markets of contracting parties which have incomparably greater flexibility in paying for their imports. It remains our devout hope that full access will continue to be afforded to all products originating from Tanzania without let or hindrance.

Finally, in any final formulation for consideration by the Ministers in Brussels, 3-7 December 1990, due scope will be given to this reality which we see little prospect of undergoing significant change in the foreseeable future.