STANDSTILL

The following communication, dated 7 April 1986, has been received from the Delegations of the Nordic countries (Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), Austria and Switzerland, with the request that it be circulated to contracting parties.

The four Nordic countries (Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), Austria and Switzerland are putting forward the following proposal for a text in the Ministerial Declaration concerning standstill.

They consider that the Ministerial Declaration will also have to address rollback and are prepared to participate in any discussion on an appropriate text.

"Ministers consider that an effective commitment on standstill regarding measures that restrict or distort international trade is necessary to create a positive negotiating climate and further the achievement of the overall objectives of the trade negotiations. Their governments undertake not to introduce any measures that are not based on provisions of the GATT-system, and to make determined efforts to avoid introducing measures that while taken in the exercise of GATT rights adversely affect international trade. Furthermore, they will formulate and implement their national trade policies in accordance with GATT principles and rules. Any measures of relevance to the standstill commitment must be notified. They agree that the standstill commitment will be accompanied by strict observance of notification obligations and by an effective surveillance mechanism, e.g. by the Council in Special Session and other appropriate bodies."