COMMUNICATION FROM THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

The following communication, dated 8 June 1991, has been received from Mr. Issa Kalantari, President of the United Nations World Food Council with the request that it be brought to the attention of the Uruguay Round participants.

"MESSAGE¹ FROM THE MINISTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD COUNCIL TO THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATORS OF THE URUGUAY ROUND

The Ministers of the United Nations World Food Council stress the high priority they attach to early progress in achieving a satisfactory outcome to the current Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

If hunger and malnutrition are to be addressed effectively, the international community and individual nations must create conditions that foster economic growth for rich and poor nations alike. To obtain this, an agreement to liberalize world agricultural trade within an overall GATT solution is crucial.

The lack of conclusion in the Uruguay Round after five years of negotiations has a severe impact on world trade, especially the trade situation of the developing countries. The most disturbing aspect is the effect this has on poverty and food security in those countries.

The necessary agricultural reforms have been delayed too long - the 1980s were a troubling and difficult decade for the poor nations of the world. At the outset of the 1990s it is imperative that they be given a fair opportunity to realize their full economic potential.

What is needed, therefore, is a comprehensive agreement which addresses the specific situation and needs of the developing world and which will ensure an international trade system which is open, just and equitable.

We urge you to come to a speedy and successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of negotiations of the GATT."

¹Message approved on 8 June 1991 by the seventeenth ministerial session of the United Nations World Food Council held in Helsingør, Denmark.