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STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. W.S. NAIMOOL,
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE
UNITED NATIONS AT GENEVA, ON BEHALF OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

1. The Trinidad and Tobago delegation is essentially concerned, very simply but very intimately, with the necessity that the integrity and the authority of the GATT be restored, maintained and enhanced. This, I would suggest, is only possible with the cessation of protectionist measures which have corroded the multilateral trading system.
2. My delegation is aware, though so often so many lose sight of the fact, that institutions are the creatures of men, particularly of powerful men. When we speak, therefore, of institutional deficiencies we speak of the deficiencies of the human condition. And when we speak of the need to correct institutional defects, we speak of the need to correct human defects. To put it another way, institutions cannot and will not properly apply the postulates of their charters unless the international community of men adheres to the obligations that basic decency and respect require of one man towards another, of one country towards another.
3. In my part of the world, the Caribbean, we have for some time been engaged in a deepening of regional economic integration. In a communiqué issued after the recent Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, Heads of Government expressed deep concern over the current world economic crisis reminiscent of the depressed conditions of the 1930s. They noted that protectionism, as used by the industrialized countries, was a main factor in this crisis and exhorted the international community, in particular the developed countries, to desist from the practice. It is an exhortation, that needs to be heeded, coming as it does, particularly, from fragile economies which even when they produce more in keeping with the urging of international institutions and of industrialized countries, find the greatest difficulty of access to markets of developed countries.
4. Trinidad and Tobago, as a small country, is aware of its limitations. But an awareness of its limitations does not blind it to an awareness of its responsibilities, to itself and to the world community of which it is a part. It is in this spirit, therefore, that my delegation would wish to make special reference to the following issues, all related to the festering practice of protectionism and the grave distortions in international trade which it breeds.

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5. My delegation would like to see a well-ordered system for taking safeguard measures that would permit transparency based on the m.f.n. principle and take into consideration the worsening economic conditions of developing countries.

6. My delegation would also like to express its concern over the proliferation of non-tariff barriers which impede market access of the exports of developing countries which enjoy comparative advantage. Moreover, such barriers are being increasingly applied to the products of those developing countries that have already firmly embarked on the path of industrialization. My delegation would like to suggest that a review be undertaken of existing non-tariff measures, including quantitative restrictions so as to achieve the elimination of these restrictions which are not in conformity with the General Agreement.

7. My delegation is deeply disturbed at the virtual ignoring of Part IV of the GATT designed to facilitate the development process of developing countries. We would insist on determined efforts in the accelerated implementation of this section of the General Agreement.

8. At this point as Trinidad and Tobago holds the Presidency of the Council of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, I have a short statement to make on behalf of and with the authority of the Council of Ministers of said States signatories to the Lomé Convention recognized by the GATT.

9. Given the numbers and significance of the ACP States and the fact that these States include nearly three quarters of the world's least developed countries, any erosion of the ACP's interests must necessarily adversely affect the development of the developing world.

10. My delegation supports those statements that have called for a strengthening of the GATT and therefore for trade liberalization and for discipline in international trade. None of us is ingenuous to the extent that we expect that the affairs of man, especially the trading and economic affairs of man, will move with perfect smoothness to the satisfaction of all. But we are certainly entitled to expect as rational beings in a world of growing interdependence, a lessening of the assaults of power on the fragile defences of the weak.