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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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DECLARATION BY SWITZERLAND - 23 FEBRUARY 1972

The Director-General received the following communication from the delegation of Switzerland on 23 February 1972, for transmission to contracting parties.

The Swiss authorities have taken cognizance with satisfaction of the mutual undertaking entered into during bilateral negotiations between the United States and the EEC on the one hand, the United States and Japan on the other hand, to initiate and actively support multilateral and comprehensive negotiations in the framework of GATT beginning in 1973, subject to such internal authorization as may be required.

They have taken note in the same spirit of the desire expressed by other contracting parties to the GATT, including Australia, Canada and Sweden, also to subscribe to this undertaking.

The prospects thus opened meet the expectation expressed by Switzerland on many occasions that new negotiations at world level would be initiated under the auspices of GATT.

The Swiss authorities will participate actively in the work to be undertaken to ensure the preparation and conduct of the negotiations envisaged, as well as the participation of all the contracting parties to GATT in such negotiations.

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