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COMMUNICATION FROM THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

The following communication dated 12 July 1988 has been received from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) with the request that it be circulated to the members of the Committee.

IDB ACTIVITIES WITH REGARD TO THE GATT AND THE URUGUAY ROUND

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is involved in various activities related to the GATT and the Uruguay Round. In the past three years, the Bank has given technical assistance to Peru (2), Costa Rica, Mexico and the Dominican Republic, as well as to SIECA (the Permanent Secretariat of the Central American Treaty for Economic Integration). In addition, the Bank is working to develop new technical cooperation projects involving private sector organizations, which will include activities such as conferences, workshops, the publication of an informative handbook related to Latin American private sector interests, and training seminars on multilateral trade negotiations. While the Bank's initial focus is on the larger countries of the Latin American region - Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela - similar activities will be held in the Central American sub-region in cooperation with the Federación de Entidades Privadas de Centroamérica y Panamá (FEDEPRICAP) and also in the Caribbean sub-region, in the latter case through the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC). A short-term mission designed to formulate a programme of activities for the participation on the Central American private sector in the GATT negotiations is currently being prepared.

In addition to the above, an in-house study will be conducted by the Bank on the effects of reductions in nontariff barriers and domestic subsidies on the agricultural trade of Latin America. The core of this study is the quantitative assessment of export revenue gains.

These activities form the basis of the IDB programme to support the GATT negotiations at present. Moreover, the Bank's Institute for Latin American Integration (INTAL), an autonomous research and technical assistance entity headquartered in Buenos Aires, Argentina, has in the course of its activities focussing on regional economic integration in Latin America and the Caribbean rendered assistance to the Bank's borrowing countries, as well as to integration agencies, within the wider context of the Uruguay Round.