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INDONESIA

Statement by H.E. Mr. Darry Salim Ambassador, Special Representative to the Textiles Surveillance Body

On behalf of my delegation, I wish to make the following remarks. First of all, allow me to state my appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, for the way you have exercised your duty. I am certain that with your wise and able leadership, we shall have a most successful meeting. I would also like to express our appreciation to the GATT secretariat for the documentation which has been prepared for this meeting. And I take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Arthur Dunkel for his reappointment as Director-General. We are very pleased to have him with us in the difficult years to come.

During this meeting, yesterday and today, many important observations have been made. I shall not repeat those ideas and expressions which my delegation also shares. Nevertheless, I wish to touch on a number of major points which are of concern to my country.

It has been noted that the state of world trade has shown some improvements. Consequently, we note that some optimism is beginning to be detected about the present, and perhaps also intermediate, prospects of world trade. Nevertheless, this should not lead us to complacency. There is a danger that we may lapse into inaction because there is an apparent improvement. Instead, we need to take advantage of this improvement to strengthen and renew our faith and commitment to the multilateral trading system.

In this connection, my delegation wishes to express concern that despite the ongoing efforts under the auspices of the Uruguay Round, protectionist measures continue to be introduced or threatened to be introduced especially by major developed nations. The protectionist mood still persists despite all good intentions. We must continue to exercise vigilance so that our commitment to standstill and rollback could be maintained.

I stress this point because my country attaches great importance to the multilateral trading system as one of the most essential foundations for prosperity. That is why we attach great importance to the developments in the Uruguay Round.

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Secondly, within the exercise in the Uruguay Round negotiations itself, I wish to express our concern about the slow progress being achieved in the negotiating groups of major concern to developing countries. Our effort should be redoubled to ensure that progress could be achieved by the time the mid-term review is conducted.

Within the sectoral negotiations, I wish to register our deep concern over the slow progress in tropical products. We made commitments in Punta del Este that early progress could be achieved. I appeal to those major trading nations to be more forthcoming in their offers.

On the question of the contribution of developing countries to the development of an open world trading system -- an issue which has lately been made more contentious than necessary -- allow me to stress again our commitment to do our share consistent with our development, financial and trade needs. In this connection, may I point out that many developing countries have made efforts unilaterally to liberalize their trade policy. This contribution should be duly noticed. As I have mentioned, this liberalization has been made according to the development, financial and trade needs of the developing countries. However, let us also remind ourselves that quite a number of developing countries have gone far indeed in their unilateral contribution through extensive domestic deregulation of their trade practices. It is therefore important that the question of contribution should not become an obstacle for some developed countries to be more forthcoming with their offer, especially in tropical products.

Now just a brief mention of textiles. In the coming two years, the textile battle will be fought in two arenas: the Textiles Committee and the Textiles Surveillance Body, and the Negotiating Group on Textiles and Clothing. The fate of the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA) will be decided in the Negotiating Group on Textiles and Clothing in the Uruguay Round.

As to the obligations under Article II of GATT and the implementation of our Harmonized System schedule XXI, we wish to ensure those contracting parties concerned that their comments and questions will be taken into careful consideration when we finalize the process of transposition.

May I also take this opportunity to say a few words about the activities of the GATT secretariat on matters connected with technical assistance. We wish to place on record our appreciation for the technical assistance we have been receiving from the GATT secretariat over past years, especially since the start of the Uruguay Round. We have availed ourselves of this assistance in different areas of negotiations, which has facilitated our participation in this complex round of negotiations.

It is our hope that in the active phase of the Uruguay Round in 1989 and 1990, the technical assistance activities of GATT will not only be continued but will be accelerated, expanded and strengthened.