

OFFICIAL VISIT OF PRESIDENT THORN IN JAPAN (9-12 May)

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE NEW NEGOTIATING ROUND.  
STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT THORN IN ANSWER TO PRESS  
QUESTIONS IN TOKYO ON 11 MAY.

TEXT BEGINS:

TELEX ABOUT A POSSIBLE NEW ROUND OF MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, I SHOULD  
TELEX LIKE TO BE CLEAR.

TELEX LET ME SAY STRAIGHT AWAY THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION IS IN FAVOUR  
TELEX OF ANY EFFECTIVE ACTION WHICH CAN BE TAKEN TO SUPPORT AND STRENGTH-  
TELEX EN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING ORDER IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE  
TELEX 1980S. WE IN EUROPE DEPEND ON FREE TRADE FOR OUR PROSPERITY. WE  
TELEX HAVE A LIBERAL TRADE POLICY. WE WANT TO LIBERALIZE AND EXTEND TRADE,  
TELEX BOTH IN GOODS AND IN SERVICES.

TELEX THE QUESTION IS: HOW TO ACHIEVE THIS RESULT? HOW DO WE GET  
TELEX EVERYONE ON BOARD TO ACHIEVE THESE COMMON OBJECTIVES? THE TIMING AND  
TELEX THE METHOD AND THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVES WILL BE CRUCIAL.

TELEX WE WILL ALSO NEED AN ADEQUATE INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS. THEREFORE,  
TELEX A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH WILL BE WISE. THIS YEAR, WE SHOULD CON-  
TELEX CENTRATE ON IMPLEMENTING THE EXISTING GATT WORK PROGRAMME, AND ON  
TELEX ROLLING-BACK PROTECTIONISM.

TELEX I HAVE SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO HOLD A HIGH-  
TELEX LEVEL GATT MEETING BEFORE THE END OF NEXT YEAR TO CONSIDER THE  
TELEX FUTURE. THERE WOULD BE NO PRE-CONDITIONS, NO STRINGS ATTACHED.  
TELEX BUT A NEW NEGOTIATING ROUND SHOULD BE THE MAIN TOPIC OF DISCUSSION.

TELEX I BELIEVE - BUT WE WILL WANT TO DISCUSS THIS AMONG THE TEN NEXT  
TELEX WEEK - THAT: IT WILL BE NECESSARY A) TO UNDERTAKE EXTENSIVE PRIOR  
TELEX CONSULTATION WITH ALL GATT GOVERNMENTS AND B) TO BE CERTAIN THAT  
TELEX AN ADEQUATE INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS CAN BE REACHED ON THE TIMING  
TELEX AND PRECISE OBJECTIVES, BEFORE WE CAN TAKE ANY DEFINITIVE POSI-  
TELEX TION IN REGARD TO THE LAUNCHING OF SUCH A NEW ROUND.

TELEX PRIME MINISTER NAKASONE AND I AGREED YESTERDAY THAT THE EUROPEAN  
TELEX COMMISSION AND THE JAPANESE AUTHORITIES SHOULD KEEP IN CLOSE CON-  
TELEX TACT, EXCHANGING INFORMATION AND OPINIONS, AND WORKING TOGETHER  
TELEX IN A POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT, IN THE HOPE THAT EFFECTIVE  
TELEX ACTION CAN BE TAKEN AT THE RIGHT MOMENT.