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COMMITTEE ON CONTRIBUTIONS
Thirty-sixth session
New York

REPRESENTATION BY URUGUAY

The following communication dated 20 May 1976 from the Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Contributions is submitted to the Committee for its consideration:

"I have the honour to refer to Uruguay's contribution to the regular budget of the United Nations.

"My Government is concerned at the present level of the assessment and has instructed me to request a reduction.

"Uruguay was the Latin American country perhaps most seriously affected by the world economic crisis. Not only has our country, as a net importer of oil and oil-based industrial inputs, been hard hit by the appreciable increase in the price of oil but, as an exporter of meat, wool and hides - which represent about 76 per cent of its foreign sales - it has suffered from the stagnation or decline in prices for them and, what is even more serious, from the sudden closing of markets in countries that had traditionally been purchasers of beef.

"Owing to the increases in the price of oil, foreign exchange requirements for fuel imports in 1974 were 372 per cent higher than in 1972, increasing from \$43 million to \$160 million in that period (Banco Comercial, Uruguay - round figures).

"Naturally, these developments adversely affected the balance of payments and the level of external debt, which increased from about \$608 million in 1971 to about \$853 million in 1974 (Banco Central del Uruguay, Economic and Financial Indicators, January 1976).

"The growth rate for the years 1972, 1973 and 1974 respectively was -1.3 per cent, 1.0 per cent and 1.4 per cent (Banco Comercial, Uruguay - round figures).

"I should also point out that Uruguay, according to figures provided by ECLA, was the Latin American country whose average per capita consumption remained most stagnant during the period 1970-1973, and that it has been recognized regionally as a relatively less developed country.

"I am at your disposal for any clarification or additional information that might be useful."
