

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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UNITED STATES TARIFF CLASSIFICATION

Request by the United States for a Further Extension of the Decision of 20 July 1963

The following communication has been received from the United States delegation.

By a decision which became effective on 20 July 1963, the contracting parties granted to the United States a waiver from the provisions of Article II, making it possible for the United States to give effect to the Revised Tariff Schedules of the United States (TSUS) before having completed the necessary renegotiation of Schedule XX in accordance with Article XXVIII. These revised Tariff Schedules were accordingly made effective on 31 August 1963.

The waiver was extended until 30 June 1965, by the Decision of 26 July 1964, to permit negotiations to continue.

The United States requests that the Decision be further extended until 30 June 1966. Whereas agreements have been reached and settlement documents signed with twenty-three contracting parties and, the United States believes, no obstacles remain to settlement with two additional contracting parties, negotiations are not concluded with the remaining five contracting parties effected by the tariff changes.

The principal cause of delay in these remaining five negotiations has been the effort on the part of the United States to correct certain errors, including some of particular concern to these contracting parties, in the new schedules through legislative action. The Congress did not complete action on the amendments bill presented to it in 1964. A new bill, substantially the same as the 1964 legislation, was introduced to the new Congress at its present session. The House of Representatives has already acted on the bill and it is now before the Senate for consideration.

The contracting parties concerned naturally wish to await final action on the bill before concluding negotiations.

It is not possible to predict when action on the pending legislation will be completed. It would, of course, be prudent to allow for any delay in the legislative process. It is for this reason that a full year's extension of the waiver is requested.

The United States shares the interest of its negotiating partners and other contracting parties in seeing these negotiations concluded at the earliest possible date. The United States has every intention of pressing forward as rapidly as circumstances permit.