

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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UNITED STATES TARIFF CLASSIFICATION

Report by the United States on Progress of the Negotiations under Article XXVIII on the Revised United States Tariff Schedules

During the consideration which led to the Decision of 30 June 1965, the United States Government said it would keep the Council informed on the progress of the negotiations and consultations under Article XXVIII with a view to the establishment of a new, consolidated Schedule XX to the General Agreement in terms of the revised Tariff Schedules of the United States.

It will be recalled that the United States Government informed the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 26 May 1965 (C/56) that agreements had been signed with twenty-three contracting parties. At that time, the United States pointed out that the principal cause of delay in the remaining negotiations related to a desire of governments to await the outcome of the consideration by the United States Congress of legislation designed to correct errors and omissions in the revised United States Tariff Schedules. Such legislation, known as the Tariff Schedules Technical Amendments Act of 1965, was enacted 7 October 1965. At the Council meeting of 19 October 1965, the United States requested a finding of special circumstances and an amendment of the Decision of 20 July 1965 to permit the tariff changes to enter into force pending the conclusion of negotiations. The requested amendment was granted by Decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 1 December 1965 (L/2522).

Since the Decision of 30 June 1965, negotiations have been completed and agreements signed with two contracting parties, Haiti and Canada. The settlement with Canada is the first negotiation in the series in which the United States has made compensatory rate reductions.

Interim agreements have not yet been signed in five negotiations still pending. Negotiations have been substantially completed with the United Kingdom and a final agreement is expected to be signed in the near future. Negotiations with Sweden and South Africa are well advanced and hopefully will be concluded shortly. Negotiations with Japan are scheduled to resume in early February and it is hoped will soon be concluded. Negotiations have not yet been completed with the European Economic Community.

The United States will transmit to all countries with which agreements have been concluded a list of the changes, if any, required in the final agreements as a result of the enactment of the Tariff Schedules Technical Amendments Act of 1965. Two contracting parties have expressed an interest in consulting on the effects of the new Act.

A list of the countries with which agreements have been concluded is attached.

Agreements Concluded by the United States with:

Australia (Spec(64)123)
Austria (Spec(64)123/Add.5)
Brazil (Spec(65)1/Add.1)
Canada (Spec(66)5)
Ceylon (Spec(64)123)
Chile (Spec(65)1/Add.3)
Denmark (Spec(64)123/Add.5)
Dominican Republic (Spec(65)1/Add.2)
Finland (Spec(64)123/Add.5)
Greece (Spec(64)123/Add.3)
Haiti (Spec(65)1/Add.5)
India (Spec(65)1/Add.3)
Indonesia (Spec(65)1/Add.3)
Israel (Spec(64)123)
New Zealand (Spec(64)123)
Nicaragua (Spec(65)1/Add.2)
Norway (Spec(64)123/Add.5)
Pakistan (Spec(65)1)
Peru (Spec(64)123/Add.4)
Portugal (Spec(64)123/Add.5)
Rhodesia (Spec(64)123/Add.1)
Spain (Spec(64)123)
Switzerland (text not yet received by secretariat)
Turkey (Spec(64)123/Add.2)
Uruguay (Spec(65)1/Add.4)