

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
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ACCESSION OF SWITZERLAND PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XXIII

Note by the Director-General

The delegations of Australia and Switzerland have deposited with me the following statements which are being circulated for the information of contracting parties.

Statement of Australia

In connexion with the accession of Switzerland to the General Agreement the Australian Government points out that at the time of such accession the Swiss schedule to the General Agreement will not contain any trade concessions originally negotiated with Australia or of practical trade interest to Australia. Moreover, despite the fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs to the draft protocol of accession, the inclusion in that protocol of the reservation to the provisions of Article XI has the effect of making uncertain when Australia might be able to obtain concessions of practical trade interest from Switzerland. On the other hand there are a number of concessions in the Australian schedule to the General Agreement in respect of which Switzerland is already a principal or substantial supplier. Switzerland might therefore seek compensation from Australia in the event that Australia wished to modify or withdraw, in accordance with the provisions of Article XXVIII, such concessions or other concessions in respect of which Switzerland might attain principal or substantial supplier interest in the future. Australia, on the other hand, would not be in a position to raise corresponding claims to compensation from Switzerland. However, this should not exclude other negotiations between the two countries on matters of mutual trade interest.

Statement of Switzerland

With reference to the statement made by Australia in connexion with the accession of Switzerland, the Swiss Government, whilst not accepting the Australian views on the effects of the fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs of the draft protocol, agrees that so long as the reservation in operative paragraph 4 of the draft protocol applies and so long as Australia considers that it has not obtained as a result of Switzerland's accession and of the negotiations currently under way acceptable conditions of access for Australian exports of agricultural products to the Swiss market, it will not seek to be joined in negotiations for compensation with respect to adjustments to Australia's schedules to GATT in accordance with Article XXVIII. However, this should not exclude other negotiations between the two countries on matters of mutual trade interest.