

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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APPLICATION OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT TO NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES

Report by the Director-General

On 11 November 1967 the CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted a Recommendation (15S/64) that contracting parties should continue to apply de facto the General Agreement in their relations with each territory which acquires full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations and in respect of which a contracting party had accepted the Agreement, provided such territory continues to apply de facto the Agreement to its trade with the contracting parties. Contrary to previous practice this Recommendation does not have a time-limit and does not require the governments concerned to request annually an extension of the arrangement whereby the GATT is applied to them on a reciprocal de facto basis.

The arrangement is at present applicable to the following countries:

	<u>Date of Independence</u>
Algeria	3 July 1962
Botswana	30 September 1966
Congo (Democratic Republic)	30 June 1960
Equatorial Guinea	12 October 1968
Lesotho	4 October 1966
Maldives	26 July 1965
Mali	20 June 1960
Singapore	9 August 1965
Southern Yemen	30 November 1967
Swaziland	6 September 1968
Tonga	5 June 1970
Zambia	24 October 1970

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is at the moment engaged in negotiations with a view to accession under Article XXXIII. The Government of Tonga, which only recently became independent, has been advised that the Recommendation is applicable to it.

In preparation of the present report letters were addressed to the governments listed, with the exception of the Congo and Tonga, asking whether the present arrangement was considered satisfactory and asking for confirmation that the General Agreement would continue to be applied on a de facto basis to their trade with contracting parties.

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Favourable replies and a confirmation that the government concerned would continue to apply the General Agreement on a de facto basis to its trade with contracting parties have been received from Botswana, Singapore, Southern Yemen, Swaziland and Zambia. No reply or no recent confirmation has been received so far from the other countries. The Government of Lesotho, however, had stated in September 1969 that it would apply the General Agreement, on a reciprocal basis, in its trade with contracting parties.