

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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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>
Mali	20 June 1960
Algeria	3 July 1962
Zambia	24 October 1964
Maldives	26 July 1965
Botswana	30 September 1966
Lesotho	4 October 1966
Yemen, People's Democratic Republic	30 November 1967
Swaziland	6 September 1968
Equatorial Guinea	12 October 1968
Tonga	5 June 1970
Fiji	10 October 1970
Bahrain	16 August 1971
Qatar	3 September 1971

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All these governments are regularly kept informed about GATT activities and are sent GATT documents.

Invitations to participate in the preparatory work of the trade negotiations and to the Tokyo Ministerial Meeting were addressed to them, and the governments of Algeria, Botswana, Fiji, Swaziland and Zambia were represented.

It is normal practice to send these governments invitations to be represented by observers at the sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. However, only Algeria and Zambia were represented at the last three sessions, Fiji was represented at the twenty-seventh and Mali at the twenty-eighth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

In preparing for the present report letters were addressed to all governments listed above seeking their views on the present de facto relationship and in particular whether they desired the present arrangement to continue. The governments of Botswana, Equatorial Guinea, Mali and Tonga have replied confirming that the present arrangement was satisfactory and requested that it be continued.