

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

L/5986  
24 April 1986  
Limited Distribution

---

Original: English

## ADMISSION OF HONG KONG AS A CONTRACTING PARTY

### Certification by the Director-General

The following communication from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom was received by the Secretariat on 23 April 1986.

---

I am instructed by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to refer to the Declaration made by the United Kingdom on 28 June 1948 concerning the application of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to Hong Kong, and to declare that Hong Kong, being a separate customs territory, in respect of which the United Kingdom has accepted that Agreement, possesses full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations and of the other matters provided for in the Agreement. In accordance with the provisions of Article XXVI(5)(c) of the said Agreement and with the wishes of Hong Kong, Hong Kong will, with effect from the date of this communication, be deemed to be a contracting party to the Agreement.

I am also instructed to state that, having regard to the Joint Declaration of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the question of Hong Kong, signed in Beijing on 19 December 1984, the United Kingdom will restore Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China with effect from 1 July 1997 and that the United Kingdom will continue to have international responsibility for Hong Kong until that date.

---

Since the conditions required by Article XXVI:5(c) have been met, Hong Kong has become a contracting party; its rights and obligations date from 23 April 1986.

A new Schedule LXXXII relating to Hong Kong and comprising the concessions specified in the Hong Kong Section of Schedule XIX-United Kingdom will formally be established through the procedure of certification of changes to schedules to the General Agreement.