

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/7209

30 April 1993

Limited Distribution

COUNCIL
12 May 1993

Original: English

CROATIA - REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS

The following communication, dated 19 April 1993, has been received by the Director-General from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, I have the honour to inform you that the Republic of Croatia has acquired and holds full sovereignty in the conduct of her commercial relations and of the other matters and activities provided for in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the related legal instruments.

Therefore, this is to inform you that the Republic of Croatia wishes to obtain the status of observer in the Council of Representatives of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. This should represent the first stage of the Croatian future accession request to the GATT and should enable my Government to get better acquainted with the methods of work of various GATT bodies.

Compared to the foreign trade regulation of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Republic of Croatia has already made substantial changes toward more liberal foreign trade regulations; import quotas have been reduced by half and export subsidies have been completely abolished. Remaining quota system and import taxations will be completely abandoned pending the economic situation. These facts, together with the full commitment of the Republic of Croatia to accept the GATT principles and objectives would form a basis for our accession request which is to be submitted in due course.

I would highly appreciate if this request for observer status could be considered by the Council at its next meeting.