

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

RESTRICTED
Spec(93)47
5 October 1993

(93-1644)

Original: English

WORKING PARTY ON THE ACCESSION OF CHINESE TAIPEI

Questions and Replies

HONG KONG

The representative of Chinese Taipei has submitted the replies reproduced hereunder to the questions submitted by Hong Kong, for circulation to members of the Working Party on the Accession of Chinese Taipei. This text and the earlier documentation reproduced in documents L/7189/Rev.1 and L/7097 and Addenda will be considered at the meeting of the Working Party scheduled to take place on 12-15 October 1993.

1. Follow-up questions from Hong Kong (Follow-up Question and Reply 2)

It is noted that in order to obtain an import licence to cover imports of cigarettes, an importer has to obtain a consent letter issued by the Taiwan Tobacco and Wine Monopoly Bureau. What are the conditions of issuing the consent letter? What is the rationale for confining imports of cigarettes from twenty-three countries only? Would Chinese Taipei consider lifting the restriction?

Reply 1

- Upon the application of private importers, the TTWMB will issue consent letters. No condition or quantity restriction is imposed for issuing such letters.
- The rationale for confining imports of cigarettes from twenty-three countries was to lessen the impact on domestic tobacco farmers from cigarette imports, which started in 1987.
- To implement the free market principle, Chinese Taipei is considering to lift such a restriction, and may open the market for all contracting parties in the short run.

2. Follow-up questions from the Philippines (Follow-up Question and Reply 3)

- (i) How many tariff line items will be contained in Tables I and II respectively?
- (ii) Will the licence be issued automatically once the commodity complies with the import regulations set out in Table II?

- (iii) We are interested to have the details regarding the laws and regulations in relation to "Table of commodities subject to the (Customs) delegation examination".
- (iv) What kind of products will likely be included in the table mention in (iii) above?

Reply 2

- (i) Since Table I and II of the negative list are still under preparation, exact item numbers are not available at the current stage. Chinese Taipei will make the information available at the Secretariat when the negative list is finalized.
- (ii) Yes, for the commodity belongs to Table II, the licence will be issued automatically once the commodity complies with the relevant import regulations set out in Table II?
- (iii) According to Article 9 of the Regulation Governing Import of Commodity, for import commodities free from licensing requirements but subject to other administration regulations, the Board of Foreign Trade may compile a Table of Commodities subject to the (Customs) Delegated Import Examination with the import regulations and the names of the relevant commodities that the Customs can co-ordinate to perform. The regulations of this Table have no trade-restriction effect and also apply to domestic commodities, such as sanitation, inspection and regulations related to the registration certificate of regulations. Further information will be provided when the preparation of the negative list is finalized.
- (iv) As to the specific products included in the Table mentioned in (iii) above, Chinese Taipei will provide the information when the negative list is ready.