

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
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PROVISIONAL ACCESSION OF YUGOSLAVIA

Request by the Government of Yugoslavia

The following communication, dated 17 October 1962, has been received from the Head of the permanent delegation of Yugoslavia.

"1. At the meeting of the GATT Council held in May 1962, my Government announced its intention to 'seek for and, together with the CONTRACTING PARTIES, find a solution which would constitute a substantial advance on the Declaration of 25 May 1959, in the form of provisional accession which would serve as a basis for a final solution of its relations with GATT' (L/1800 of 21 June 1962).

"2. The reasons for the transitional nature of Yugoslavia's status under the Declaration of 25 May 1959 have been expounded by the Yugoslav delegation at the thirteenth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, as well as in the Working Party appointed at that session to consider the terms on which Yugoslavia might be brought into closer association with the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

"3. Since the entry into force of the Declaration of 25 May 1959, my Government has spared no effort to comply with the undertaking given in paragraph 3 of the Declaration of 25 May 1959. The changes made in Yugoslavia's foreign trade and exchange system, which constitute progress towards a position in which my Government could 'give full effect to the provisions of the General Agreement' and 'apply for accession under Article XXXIII', have been examined on two occasions during the annual review provided for in section C of the Declaration of 25 May, and will be examined for the last time during the twentieth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

"4. As I stated in the name of my Government before the Council during its meeting last May (L/1800), these measures are the following: (a) the introduction of a single rate of exchange replacing the old system of multiple exchange rates ('coefficients'); (b) the introduction of a general provisional customs tariffs, and (c) the elimination of elements of import and export monopoly to the extent that they still existed in certain Yugoslav enterprises.

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"5. In the light of what I have just said, my Government considers that it has carried out its commitments under the Declaration of 25 May 1959, and that the time has come to terminate the arrangement established by that Declaration and to proceed to a more advanced stage in Yugoslavia's relations with the contracting parties. This is all the more appropriate since, from the outset, the arrangement established under the Declaration of 25 May 1959 was conceived as 'a transitional stage until Yugoslavia was in a position to apply for accession under Article XXXIII' (L/986, paragraph 4).

"6. Accordingly, in the name of my Government, I have the honour to request you to advise the contracting parties that my Government wishes to accede to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade under Article XXXIII, but that being not yet in a position to initiate the necessary tariff negotiations for this purpose, it requests provisional accession so as to enable it to bring into effect a definitive customs tariff in place of the present provisional tariff.

"7. I hope that the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their twentieth session will respond favourably to this request."