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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON  
TARIFFS AND TRADE

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STATE TRADING

Notifications Pursuant to Article XVII:4(a)

Addendum

POLAND

The Government of Poland has informed the secretariat that, within the framework of the existing political and economic system, State trading in the sense of Article XVII does not exist in the Polish People's Republic. A communication from the Government of Poland for the information of the CONTRACTING PARTIES is contained in the Annex to this document.

ANNEX

The following communication has been received from the permanent representation of the Polish People's Republic.

1. Within the framework of the existing political and economic system there is no State trading in the Polish People's Republic in the sense of Article XVII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). There is, however, State monopoly for foreign trade which results mainly from the socialist ownership of means of production.

2. It is worth mentioning that all these problems have been already discussed in connexion with Poland's request to accede to GATT. In the Report of the Working Party on Trade with Poland (see L/2806 of 23 June 1967) it has been stated that:

"The Working Party noted that a thorough examination of the Polish foreign trade system had taken place in connexion with the discussions leading to the 1959 Declaration on Relations with Poland. In the subsequent annual reviews under the Declaration the development of trade between Poland and the contracting parties had been examined.

"During the meeting the Polish delegation replied to, or commented on, various questions put to it by members of the Working Party, and, at their request, supplied supplementary information.

"The Working Party noted that the foreign trade of Poland was conducted mainly by State enterprises and that the Foreign Trade Plan rather than the customs tariff was the effective instrument of Poland's commercial policy.

"It was agreed that in view of the nature of the foreign trade system of Poland its main concession in the negotiations for its accession to the General Agreement would be commitments relating to an annual increase in the value of its imports from contracting parties.

"Having carried out the examination of the foreign trade régime of Poland and in the light of the assurances given by the representative of Poland, the Working Party recommends that the contracting parties apply the General Agreement to their relations with Poland in accordance with the terms and conditions of the draft Protocol for the Accession of Poland drawn up by the Working Party and annexed to this report, on the understanding that a reciprocal and mutually advantageous basis would thereby be afforded for the continuing evolution of trading relations between Poland and the contracting parties.

"For this purpose the Working Party has prepared a draft Decision attached to this report, on the accession of Poland and the draft Protocol referred to above."

3. As it is known, in 1967 Poland became one of the contracting parties to GATT according to recommendation of the Working Party on Trade with Poland pursuant to Article XXXIII of GATT on the basis of provisions agreed upon and included in the Protocol.

Ever since its accession to GATT Poland's respective commitments have been reviewed every year and no country has ever claimed that domestic economic conditions in Poland are harmful to its trade interests in the Polish market.

This letter is a mere recollection of facts accepted already by contracting parties and it should not be interpreted as a notification pursuant to Article XVII of GATT (State Trading). The situation to which this Article refers, as it was mentioned above, does not apply to the political and economic system of Poland.

4. In Poland, the formulation "planned foreign trade" means the export and import of goods by those who perform economic tasks under national economic plans on the basis of contracts concluded with foreign partners.

Those who perform such tasks in Poland, are mostly foreign trade enterprises subordinated directly to the Minister of Foreign Trade or acting in the sphere of foreign trade in accordance with authorization of this Minister.

Polish foreign trade enterprises are separated from the State from the economic, financial and legal point of view and have juridical personality. They run their trading business on their own account. They are not liable for any obligations of the State and the latter is not liable for obligations of foreign trade enterprises either. In their business activity they direct themselves by motives of commercial character.

5. For the information of contracting parties a list of Polish foreign trade enterprises is enclosed herewith.

LIST OF POLISH FOREIGN TRADE ENTERPRISES

- AGROS  
Warszawa, Zurawia 32/34
- ANIMEX  
Warszawa, Pulawska 14
- BALTONA  
Gdynia, Pulaskiego 6
- CENTROZAP  
Katowice Ligonia 7
- DAL  
Warszawa, Frascati 2
- ELEKTRIM  
Warszawa, Czackiego 15/17
- IMPEXMETAL  
Warszawa, Wilcza 50/52
- MINEX  
Warszawa, Krakowskie Przedmieście 79
- PAGED  
Warszawa, Plac Trzech Krzyzy 18
- POLIMEX-CEKOP  
Warszawa, Czackiego 7/9
- POLSERVICE  
Warszawa, Poznańska 15
- ROLIMPEX  
Warszawa, Al Jerozolimskie 44
- UNIVERSAL  
Warszawa, Al Jerozolimskie 44
- VARIMEX  
Warszawa, Wilcza 50/52
- TORIMEX  
Warszawa, Zurawia 32/34
- BUDIMEX  
Warszawa, Zurawia 3/5
- CIECH  
Warszawa, Jasna 12
- TEXTILIMPEX  
Lódź, Sienkiewicza 3/8
- SKÓRIMPEX  
Lódź, 22-Lipca 74

- H. CEGIELSKI  
Poznań, Dzierzyńskiego 223-229
- CENTROMOR  
Gdańsk, Okopowa 7
- KOLMEX  
Warszawa, Mokotowska 49
- STALEXPORT  
Katowice, Plebiscytowa 36
- MOTOIMPORT-AGROMET  
Warszawa, Przemysłowa 26
- BUMAR  
Warszawa, Kolejowa 57
- METALEXPORT  
Warszawa, Mokotowska 49
- METRONEX  
Warszawa, Al. Jerozolimskie 44
- POL-MOT  
Warszawa, Stalingradzka 23
- PEZETEL  
Warszawa, Przemysłowa 26
- NAVIMOR  
Gdańsk
- RYBEX  
Szczecin, Odrowąża 1
- PAGED-MEBLE  
Warszawa, Plac Trzech Krzyży 18
- ARS POLONA - RUCH  
Warszawa, Krakowskie Przedmieście 7
- DESA  
Warszawa, Al. Jerozolimskie 2
- FILM-POLSKI  
Warszawa, Mazowiecka 6/8
- COOPEXIM-CEPELIA  
Warszawa, Żurawia 4
- POLCOOP  
Warszawa, Kopernika 30
- HORTEX  
Warszawa, Warecka 11a
- UNITRA  
Warszawa, Al. Jerozolimskie 44

Agencies representing foreign firms in Poland

- MACIEJ CZARNECKI and Co. Ltd.  
Commercial and Agents House  
Warszawa, Marszałkowska 87
- DYNAMO Co. Ltd.  
Import-Export Commercial House  
Warszawa, Al. I Armii Wojska Polskiego 3
- EXIMPOL Co. Ltd.  
International Trading Company  
Warszawa, Poznańska 38
- MUNDIAL Co. Ltd.  
Export-Import Company  
Warszawa, Tatrzańska 38
- POLCOMEX S.A.  
Representation of Foreign Firms  
Warszawa, Świętokrzyska 32
- TIMEX Sp. S.A.  
Import-Export  
Warszawa, Al. I Armii Wojska Polskiego 3
- TRANSACTOR S.A.  
Commercial House  
Warszawa, Olszewska 8
- UNITEX S.A.  
Import-Export  
Warszawa, Hibnera 5.