

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/4648

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Limited Distribution

ADMISSION OF SURINAM AS A CONTRACTING PARTY

Certification by the Director-General

At their thirty-first session the CONTRACTING PARTIES were advised by the representative of the Netherlands that, as from 25 November 1975, Surinam had acquired full independence and thereby assumed full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations and of the other matters provided for in the General Agreement. Thus the Government of the Netherlands has established the fact that the Republic of Surinam was qualified, in the sense of paragraph 5(c) of Article XXVI, to become a contracting party.

The Government of Surinam has been applying the General Agreement on a de facto basis, pursuant to the Recommendation of the CONTRACTING PARTIES of 11 November 1967, and has now declared by a Declaration of Continuity, dated 25 February 1978, that the Republic of Surinam succeeds in the rights and obligations of Surinam, former part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Since the conditions required by Article XXVI:5(c) have been met Surinam has become a contracting party; its rights and obligations date from 25 November 1975.

A new Schedule LXXIV relating to Surinam and comprising the concessions specified in Section E of Schedule II will formally be established through the procedure of certification of changes to schedules to the General Agreement.

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