GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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ACCESSION OF THE PHILIPPINES

Supplemental Memorandum on Foreign Trade Régime

The Government of the Philippines has submitted the following communication.

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy each of a Supplemental Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Régime of the Philippines and an updated Philippine Tariff Schedule in connexion with the Philippine application for accession to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

In view of the forthcoming conclusion of the multilateral trade negotiations, the Philippines desires to accede to the GATT under Article XXXIII within the context of the Tokyo Round of multilateral trade negotiations pursuant to paragraph 1 of the Declaration on the Provisional Accession of the Philippines (L/3909) dated 9 August 1973.

Historical analysis of Philippine foreign trade

During the period 1973 to 1977, Philippine foreign trade increased sharply over previous years. From a total trade value of \$2,518 million in 1972, it increased almost threefold in 1977 to \$7,065 million with both exports and imports recording substantial upward performance. Although the Philippines had a favourable trade balance in 1973, unfavourable trade balances in the succeeding four years cumulated into an overall trade deficit aggregating to \$3,166 million for the five-year period.

Developments in external trade transactions of the Philippines during the five-year period were characterized by the following features: a deterioration of the net terms of trade; a continuation of the predominant trading position of the United States and Japan as the Philippines leading trading partners; diversification of the direction of trade to 148 countries of which seventy-five are members of GATT; the continued concentration of imports in producer goods and the increasing proportion of processed goods in the export mix. In 1977, the aggregate value of Philippine trade with the seventy-five member countries of GATT reached \$5.8 billion representing 82 per cent of total Philippine foreign trade.

The Philippine Tariff Schedule is available in the secretariat for inspection.

Imports

Philippine imports continued to increase in f.o.b. value during the period 1973-1977 and tripled in value from \$1,333 million in 1972 to \$3,914 million in 1977. The import mix had also undergone a substantive change. Percentagewise, imports of consumer goods declined from 9.5 per cent in 1972 to 6.1 per cent in 1977. The high proportion in producer goods was due largely to the increase in imports of semi-processed materials used in domestic production.

A marked change in the direction of Philippine imports had also been registered. On account of the termination of preferential tariff relations in mid-1974 between the Philippines and the United States the share of the United States in Philippine imports declined from 27 per cent in 1972 to 20 per cent in 1977 when sources of Philippine imports further diversified with Japan accounting for 25 per cent, the enlarged European Economic Community, 12 per cent, ASEAN countries, 7 per cent and Australia, 4 per cent.

Exports

Exports increased but at a much slower pace than imports. From a level of US\$1,837 million in 1973 it reached \$3,151 million in 1977. In four years, exports increased in value by more than 70 per cent.

While in 1949, 72 per cent of total Philippine exports went to the United States, in 1977 this declined to 35 per cent with Japan accounting for 23 per cent, the enlarged European Economic Community, 18 per cent, the ASEAN countries, 4 per cent, Australia, 2 per cent and the remaining 18 per cent distributed among several other countries.

A noteworthy development in the Philippine export situation is the significant growth of non-traditional exports. From a mere US\$282 million in 1973 non-traditional exports rose to US\$746 million in 1976. In three years, non-traditional exports more than doubled.

Among the ten leading exports of the Philippines in 1976, four were non-traditional products, namely, bananas, garments, handicrafts and electronics and the rest were traditional items including logs and lumber, copra, coconut oil, sugar and copper ores and concentrates.

This export performance clearly demonstrates the tremendous growth potential of non-traditional products and their critical rôle in any programme of exports expansion. However, Philippine exports continue to be plagued with new pressures and difficulties brought about by international arrangements favouring the developed countries and crippling the developing nations. The restrictions imposed by a number of developed countries on Philippine garments, for instance, pose a threat to the stability of the country's non-traditional dollar earner.

Financing of trade deficits

Except in 1973 when the Philippines registered a trade surplus, the recurring trade deficits continued throughout 1974 to 1977. The trade deficits were financed partly by positive balances in the current invisible and capital accounts, net inflow of loans and investments and drawdowns in the official reserves of the monetary authorities.

During the nineteen seventies, the net inflow of loans and investments has grown in importance as a source of financing.

Trading arrangements

To date, nineteen (19) bilateral trade agreements have been concluded by the Philippines with both socialist and market economy countries, all of which are consistent with the most-favoured-nation provisions of GATT. These agreements have been entered into to strengthen the thrust of developing new markets coupled with a parallel thrust of improving the terms of trade with traditional trading partners. Negotiations are still going on with the United States and Japan on the conclusion of new agreements.

So far, the Philippines is a member of one international commodity agreement, the International Sugar Agreement (ISA), and an observer in four commodity associations, namely, CIPEC, rubber, banana and iron ore. The Philippines accession to the International Cocoa Agreement is pending final approval by the International Cocoa Council. Negotiations for Philippine membership in the International Coffee Agreement are still being pursued. Such agreements are intended to help in the stabilization of world market prices of commodities as well as in providing access to markets to exporting countries and assurance of adequate supplies to importing countries at fair and reasonable prices.

Full participation by the Philippines in the current round of GATT-Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) is also being undertaken with the objective of securing the best possible terms for its exports. Its provisional accession to GATT has, nevertheless, afforded the country most-favoured-nation treatment for its products in a number of developed and developing country markets. Relatedly, the Philippines has acceded and agreed to extend the GATT Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Textiles (MFA).

The Philippines also has standing commitments within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) since its establishment in Bangkok in August 1967. Total participation is being undertaken by the Philippines in the activities of ASEAN, including those of the Committee on Trade and Tourism (COTT), where concessions are being exchanged under the Preferential Trading Arrangement (PTA). A Working Party has been set up by the GATT Council to examine the ASEAN PTA.

Philippine commercial policy

The tariff system

Since the promulgation of Presidential Decree No. 34 revising the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines on 27 October 1972, amendments to the import tariff schedule were made by issuance of Executive Orders and Presidential Decrees. As of 10 June 1978, twelve (12) Executive Orders and six (6) Presidential Decrees had been issued modifying some ninety-one (91) tariff rates covering producer as well as consumer goods.

With a view to a simplification and effective implementation of the tariff and customs laws, Presidential Decree No. 1464 was promulgated on 11 June 1978 codifying existing tariff and customs laws and incorporating, among others, the above-mentioned amendments. Hereunder are the important features relative to the tariff schedules and provisions of the aforementioned Decree.

- 1. The existing export tariff schedule, including premium duty is incorporated as part of the Tariff Code under Presidential Decree No. 1464.
- 2. The anti-dumping provisions have been improved by incorporating procedures for discontinuance of a dumping duty and a limited duration of the imposition to five years subject to representation of the domestic industry for extension.
- 3. The countervailing provisions no longer contain elements of injury as precondition for the imposition of the countervailing duty.

Foreign exchange regulatory measures

Since 1973 up to 1977, the Central Bank, in line with its commitments with the IMF to look into the possibility of reducing if not totally eliminating restrictions on foreign exchange for commodity purchases, has liberalized the imports of fifty-five (55) commodities. Studies towards the further delisting of currently restricted commodity categories are continuously being undertaken by the Central Bank.

Internal revenue taxes

In addition to import duties, an internal revenue tax in the form of either a specific tax, percentage sales tax or compensating tax is imposed on importation into the Philippines. In certain cases, imported goods are taxed at higher rates than locally-manufactured ones.

Customs procedures and formalities

The period within which entry at custom house and disposition of unclaimed imported articles is to be effected has been shortened to minimize congestion and pilferage. The authority to compromise any case involving the imposition of fines, surcharges and forfeitures is expressly provided to avoid protracted litigation.

The consular formalities required have been simplified with the elimination of the requirement for the certificate of origin. The whole procedure, which is relatively simple, does not unduly burden international trade as invoices are processed immediately.

Export régime

A national export strategy has been formulated along with the establishment of the Philippine Export Council to assure the success of the country's export development programme. This export development programme is premised on basic policy directions, namely:

- 1. The expansion and diversification of the export product base.
- 2. The promotion and development of non-traditional exports particularly manufactures and semi-manufactures.
- 3. The diversification and development of markets abroad.
- 4. The promotion and development of the export of services.

To promote the exports of non-traditional manufactures and semimanufactures the Government embarked on a programme to phase out exports
of vital raw materials such as logs corals ratten poles, abaca fibres
and milkfish fry and levied an export tariff duty which replaced the
stabilization tax on the gross fob. export proceeds of major traditional
export products. Primary export products such as copra and centrifugal
sugar are assessed 10 per cent and 6 per cent export tax respectively.
Other primary exports such as bananas, shrimps and prawns, iron and
chromite ores and concentrates, certain mineral fuels, leaf and scrap
tobacco and unmanufactured abaca are levied 4 per cent. Semi-processed
articles such as coconut oil, desiccated coconut, copra meal or cake and
molasses are levied 4 per cent export tax while processed agricultural
products, namely, pineapple in slices or crushed pineapple juice and
concentrates are levied 4 per cent export tax.

The Government has opened new markets in countries with whom the Philippines has had no previous or minimal trade such as the socialist and Middle East countries. Intensified trade promotion and marketing programmes through publicity, trade missions, international fairs and exhibitions, commercial attachés, Philippine trade houses and other means are carried out vigorously. To achieve greater economies of scale and secure better terms of trade for Philippine products through effective foreign marketing and distribution, a State-trading firm is now in existence.

Table 1/Tableau 1

TOTAL EXPORTS OF THE PHILIPPINES 1973-1977/
EXPORTATIONS TOTALES DES PHILIPPINES 1973-1977

Year/ Année	1 1	Gross tons/ Tonnes brutes	1	F.o.b. value (US\$'000)/ Valeur f.o.b. (milliers de \$EU)	US\$/ton/ \$EU/tonne
1973		16,767,601		1,837,188	109.5
1974		12,964,311		2,724,989	210.2
1975		12,943,206		2,294,470	177.3
1976		11,202,506		2.573,676	229.7
1977		14,818,818		3,150,887	212.6

Table 2/Tableau 2

TOTAL IMPORTS OF THE PHILIPPINES 1973-1977/
IMPORTATIONS TOTALES DES PHILIPPINES 1973-1977

Year/ Année	1 1 7	Gross tons/ Tonnes brutes	1 1	F.o.b. value (US\$'000)/ Valeur f.o.b. (milliers de \$EU)	US\$/ton/ \$EU/tonne
1973		13,928,369		1,596,619	114.6
1974		14,532,311		3,143,260	216.3
1975		15,051,259		3,459,183	229.8
1976		16,427,892		3,633,482	221.2
1977		19,543,269		3,914,763	200.3

Table 3/Tableau 3

TRADE BALANCE 1973-1977/BALANCE COMMERCIALE 1973-1977

(f.o.b. value US\$'000)/
(Valcur f.o.b. en milliers de dollars EU)

Year/ Année	Imports/ Importations	t t	Exports/ Exportations	' Balance ' Solde
1973	1,596,619		1,837,188	+ 240,569
1974	3,143,260		2,724,989	- 418.270
1975	3,459,183		2,294,470	- 1,164,713
1976	3,633,482		2,573,676	- 1,059,806
1977	3,914,763		3,150,887	- 763,876

Propared by the Trade Branch, National Census and Statistics Office, Manila./ Tableau établi par la Division du commerce, Direction générale du recensement et de la statistique, Manille.

Table 4/Tableau 4

VALUE PER UNIT (TON)OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS 1960-1977/
VALEUR UNITAIRE (TONNE) DES IMPORTATIONS ET DES EXPORTATIONS 1960-1977

Year/ Année	US\$ per ton' imported/ SEU par tonne importée	1972=100	US\$ per ton 'exported/' EU par 'tonne' exportée	% 1972=100	Difference/' Différence'	% 1972=100
1960	121,2	121.4	78.9	102.1	42.3	188.0
1961	126.4	126.7	78.3	101.3	48.1	213.8
1962	115.2	115.4	80.1	103.6	35.1	156.0
1963	102.1	102.3	79•4	102.7	22.6	100.4
1964	107.6	107.8	77•9	100.8	29.7	132.0
1965	103.6	103.8	74.6	96.5	29.0	128.9
1966	97•5	97•7	74.5	96.4	23.0	102.2
1967	102.1	102.3	75•2	97•3	26.9	119.6
1968	101.5	101.7	71.7	92.8	29.8	132.4
1969	93.9	94.1	68.2	88.2	25•7	114.2
1970	92.5	92.7	72•3	93•5	20.2	89.8
1971	93•7	93•9	73.6	95.2	20.1	89.3
1972	99.8	100.0	77•3	100.0	22.5	100.0
1973	114.6	114.8	109•5	141.7	5.1	22.7
1974	216.3	216.7	210.2	271.9	6.1	27.1
1975	229.3	230.3	177•3	229.4	2.5	2 33. 3
1976	221.2	221.6	229•7	297.2	8.5	37.8
1977	200.3	200.7	212.6	275•0	12.3	54.7

^{1/} Base year revised from 1960 to 1972./Année de référence revisée de 1960 à 1972.

EXPORTS OF CENTRIFUGAL SUGAR 1973-1977 / EXPORTATIONS DE SUCRE CENTRIFUGE 1973-1977

Year/ Année	Tons/ Tonnes	F.o.b. value (US\$'000)/ Valeur f.o.b. (milliers de \$EU)	% to. total exports/ % des expor- tations totales	Average US\$/ton/ Valeur moyenne \$EU/tonne
1973	1,470,337	273,966	14.91	186.33
1974	1,542,081	737,365	27.06	478.16
1975	972,217	580,736	25.31	597•33
1976	1,455,998	426,522	16.57	292.94
1977	2,418,991	506,352	16.07	209.32

EXPORTS OF COPPER CONCENTRATES 1973-1977/
EXPORTATIONS DE CONCENTRES DE CUIVRE 1973-1977

Year/ Anné		% to volume of total export/ % du volume des exportations totales	F.o.b. value (US\$'000)/ Valeur f.o.b. (milliers de \$EU)	Dollars per ton/ Dollars par tonne	% to value of total exmort, % de la valeur des expor- tations totales
1973	763,747	4.55	290,281	380.07	15.80
1974	830,454	6.40	393,184	473.45	47.34
1975	799,310	6.18	212,081	265.33	26.53
1976	942,181	8.41	265,879	282.20	28.22
1977	1,007,365	6.80	267,800	265.84	26.58

EXPORTS OF LOGS AND LUMBER 1973-1977/
EXPORTATIONS DE GRUMES ET DE SCIAGES 1973-1977

Year/ Année	Tons/ Tonnes	F.o.b. value (US\$'000)/ Valeur f.o.b. (milliers de \$EU)	% to total exports/ % des exportations, totales	Average US3/ton/ Valeur moyenne \$EU/tonne
1973	3,162,736	338,680	18.43	107.08
1974	1,928,248	245,712	9.02	127.43
1975	1,874,731	194,110	8.46	103.54
h976	1,177,130	203,417	7.90	172.81
1977	1,046,662	200,516	6.36	191.58

Table 6-B/Tableau 6-B

EXPORTS OF COPRA 1973-1977/
EXPORTATIONS DE COPRAH 1973-1977

Year/ Année	Tons/ Tonnes	F.o.b. value (US\$1000)/ Valeur f.o.b. (milliers de \$EU)	% to total exports/ % des exportations totales	Average US\$/to Valeur moyenn \$EU/tonne
1973	734,431	165,764	9.02	225.70
1974	267,697	139,784	5.13	522.17
1975	761,147	172,318	7.51	226.39
1976	822,736	149,722	5.82	181.98
1977	634,636	200,525	6.36	315.97

Table 6-C/Tableau 6-C

EXPORTS OF COCONUT OIL, CRUDE 1973-1977/
EXPORTATIONS D'HUILE DE COCO, BRUTE 1973-1977

Year/ Année	Tons/ Tonnes	F.o.b. value (US\$'000)/ Valeur f.o.b. (milliers de \$EU)	% to total exports/ % des exportations totales	Average US\$/ton/ Valeur moyenne \$EU/tonne
1973	427,372	151,083	8.22	353.52
1974	415,120	380,020	13.94	915.45
1975	606,655	225,797	9.84	372.20
1976	854,020	294,839	11.46	345.24
1977	714,172	380,140	12.06	532.28

EXPORTS OF PLYWOOD, ORDINARY 1973-1977/
EXPORTATIONS DE CONTREPLAQUES, ORDINAIRES 1973-1977

Year/ Année	Tons/ Tonnes	F.o.b. value (USC:000)/ Valeur f.o.b. (milliers de \$EU)	% to total exports/ % dcs exportations totales	Average US\$/ton/ Valeur moyenne \$EU/tonne
1973	177,370	58,057	3.16	327.32
1974	93,639	26,089	0.96	278.61
1975	90,988	20,602	0.90	226.42
1976	150,692	43,164	1.68	286.44
1977	127,675	40,589	1.29	317.91

Table 6-E/Tableau 6-E

EXPORTS OF BANANAS AND PLANTAINS 1973-1977/
E::PORTATIONS DE BANANES ET DE PLANTAINS 1973-1977

Year/ Année	† † † †	Tons/ Tonnes	† † †	F.o.b. value (US\$'000)/ Valeur f.o.b. (milliers de \$EU)	% to total exports/ % des exportations, totales	Average US%/ton/ Valeur moyenne \$EU/tonne
1973		465,786		27,831	1.51	59•75
1974		662,999		45,479	1.67	68.59
1975		822,742		73,104	3.19	88.85
1976		796,178		75,618	2.94	94.98
1977		692,689		72,461	2.30	104.61

Table 6-F/Tableau 6-F

EXPORTS OF PINEAPPLE, IN SYRUP 1973-1977/
EXPORTATIONS D'ANANAS, AU SIROP 1973-1977

Year/ Année	Tons/ Tonnes	F.o.b. value (US\$'000)/ Valeur f.o.b, (milliers de \$EU)	% to total exports/ % des exportations totales	Average US\$/to Valeur moyem \$EU/tonnes
1973	90,923	16,696	0.91	183.63
1974	125,307	30,625	1.12	244.40
1975	116,393	34,705	1.51	298.17
1976	138,336	46,739	1.52	337.86
1977	154,446	55,908	1.77	361.99

Table 6-G/Tableau 6-G

EXPORTS OF DESICCATED COCONUT 1973-1977/
EXPORTATIONS DE NOIX DE COCO DESSECHEES 1973-1977

Year/ Année	Tons/ Tonnes	F.o.b. value (US\$'000)/ Valeur f.o.b. (milliers de \$EU)	% to total exports/, % des exportations, totales	Average US\$/ton/ Valeur moyenne \$EU/tonne
1973	78,049	32,456	1.77	415.84
1974	63,909	60,300	2.21	943.53
1975	66,245	30,429	1.33	459.34
1976	81,003	37,494	1.46	462.87
1977	97,952	90,047	2.86	919.29

Table 6-H/Tableau 6-H

EXPORTS OF COPRA CIL; CAKE OR MEAL 1973-1977/

EXPORTATIONS D'HUILE, DE TOURTEAUX ET DE FARINE DE COPRAH 1973-1977

Year/ Année	Tons/ Tonnes	F.o.b. value (US\$'000)/ Valeur f.o.b. (milliers de \$EU)	% to total exports/ % des exportations totales	Average US3/to Valeur moyenn \$EU/tonne
1973	263,214	22,785	1.24	86.56
1974	270,685	27,887	1.02	103.02
1975	303,962	33,331	1.45	109.66
1976	497,632	54,522	2.12	109.56
1977	436,112	58,151	1.84	133.34

Table 7/Tableau 7

MINOR EXPORTS 1973-1977/
EXPORTATIONS DE MOINDRE IMPORTANCE 1973-1977

Year/ Année	Tons/ Tonnes	F.o.b. value (US\$'000)/ Valeur f.o.b. (milliers de \$EU)	% to total exports/, % des exportations , totales	Dollars per ton, Dollars par tonne
1973	9,133,596	356,689	19.41	39.05
1974	6,764,172	638,544	23.43	94.40
1975	6,528,816	716,745	31.24	109.78
1976	4,286,600	975,760	37.91	227.63
1977	7,488,118	1,278,398	40.57	170.72

Table 8/Tableau 8

PHILIPPINE EXPORTS PERCENTAGES TO TOTAL EXPORTS/ VENTILATION EN POURCENTAGE DES EXPORTATIONS TOTALES DES PHILIPPINES

Year/ Année	Raw materials/ Matières premières	Semi-manufactured/ Demi-produits	Manufactured/ Produits manufacturés
1973	76.14	10.28	13.58
1974	79•33	7.68	12.99
1975	72.24	9.84	17.92
1976	67.46	8.40	24.14
1977	71.56	6.91	21.53

Table 9/Tableau 9

EVOLUTION DES ECHANGES DES PHILIPPINES AVEC LES PAYS MEMBRES DE L'ASEAN

(US\$'000)/(Milliers de \$EU)

Year/ Année	Imports/ Importations	Exports/ Exportations	Trade balance/ Balance commerciale
1973	34,555	39,007	+ 4,452
1974	75,333	35,994	- 39,339
1975	172,817	60,509	- 112,308
1976	243,610	79,974	- 163,636
1977	260,529	125,872	- 134,658

Table 10/Tableau 10 PHILIPPINES SHARE IN WORLD TRADE/ PART DES PHILIPPINES DANS LE COMMERCE MONDIAL

Year/ Année	† 1 2	Share (%)/ Part (%)
1971		0.34
1972		0.30
1973		0.29
1974		0.35
1975		0.32
1976		0.31

Source of data on world trade: Yearbook of International Trade Statistics.

Prepared by the Trade Branch, National Census and Statistics Office, Manila/

Source des données relatives au commerce mondial: Yearbook of International Trade Statistics.

Tableau établi par la Division du commerce, Direction générale du recensement et de la statistique, Manille, Philippines.

Table 11/Tableau 11

INDEX OF PRICES IN PHILIPPINE FOREIGN TRADE IN TERMS OF EXCHANGES 1960-1977

IN TERMS OF EXCHANGES 1960-1977

BASE 1972-100/

INDICE DES PRIX DANS LE COMMERCE EXTERIEUR DES PHILIPPINES

TERMES DE L'ECHANGE 1960-1971

1972-100-1

Year/ ' Année '	Imports (c.i.f.)/ ' Importations ' (c.a.f.) '	Exports (f.o.b.)/ Exportations (f.o.b.)	' Exchange of relationship of prices/ ' Termes de l'échange
1960	69.1	101.2	146.4
,1961	70.1	93•1	132.8
1962	71.4	94.1	131.8
1963	76,2	99.1	130.0
1964	76.8	98.3	128.0
1965	78.1	100.0	128.0
1966	79•4	100.9	127.1
1967	81.2	102.7	126.5
1968	88.6	103.1	123.1
1969	90.2	109.5	121.4
1970	93•5	111.1	118.8
1971	95•5	105.6	.110.6
1972	100.0	100.0	100.00
1973	128.8	145•9	113.3
1974	211.6	242.3	114.5
1975	219.6	192.8	87.8
1976	217.2	168.8	77•7
1977	241.1	171.3	71.0

Source of Data: Central Bank./Source des données: Banque centrale.

^{1/} Base year revised from 1960 to 1972./Année de référence revisée de 1960 à 1972.

Table 12/Tableau 12

IMPORT CAPACITY 1960-1971/CAPACITE D'IMPORTATION 1960-1977

BASE 1972=1002/

Year/ Année	' Index of quantity of exports/ ' Indice du volume des exportations		' Import capacity/ ' Capacité ' d'importation
1960	50.0	146.4	73.2
1961	48.3	132.8	64.1
1962	53.0	131.8	69.8
1963	65.8	130.0	85.5
1964	67.4	126.0	86.3
1965	69.2	128.0	88.6
1966	73•5	127.1	93•4
1967	70.9	126.5	89•7
1968	75•4	123.1	92.8
1969	76.9	121.4	93•4
1970	86.0	118.3	104.5
1971	96.4	110.6	106.6
1972	100.0	100.0	100.0
1973	107.7	115.3	122.0
1974	96.2	114.5	110.1
1975	101.9	97.3	89.5
1976	130.5	77.7	101.4
1977	157.4	71.0	111.8

^{1/} Base year revised from 1960 to 1972 / Année de référence revisée de 1960 à 19

