

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/4846

22 October 1979

Limited Distribution

APPLICATION OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT TO NEWLY-INDEPENDENT STATES

Report by the Director-General

On 11 November 1967 the CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted a Recommendation (15S/64) that contracting parties should continue to apply de facto the General Agreement in their relations with each territory which acquired full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations and in respect of which a contracting party had accepted the Agreement, provided such territories continued to apply de facto the Agreement to its trade with the contracting parties. The Recommendation does not have a time-limit. The Director-General is requested to submit a report on its application after three years. Earlier reports have been submitted to the Council in November 1970 (L/3457), in November 1973 (L/3948) and in October 1976 (L/4427).

The Recommendation is at present applicable in respect of the following countries:

	<u>Date of independence</u>
Mali	20 June 1960
Algeria	3 July 1962
Zambia	24 October 1964
Maldives	26 July 1965
Botswana	30 September 1966
Lesotho	4 October 1966
Yemen, Democratic	30 November 1967
Swaziland	6 September 1968
Equatorial Guinea	12 October 1968
Tonga	5 June 1970
Fiji	10 October 1970
Bahrain	16 August 1971
Qatar	3 September 1971
United Arab Emirates	1 December 1971
Bahamas	10 July 1973

./.

Date of independence

Grenada	7 February 1974
Guinea-Bissau	10 September 1974
Mozambique	25 June 1975
Cape Verde	5 July 1975
Sao Tomé and Príncipe	12 July 1975
Papua New Guinea	16 September 1975
Angola	11 November 1975
Seychelles	29 June 1976
Solomon Islands	7 July 1978
Tuvalu	1 October 1978
Dominica	3 November 1978
Saint Lucia	22 February 1979

Since the last report submitted in October 1976, the Recommendation has become applicable to the Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Dominica and Saint Lucia. Suriname, which was included in this list of countries at the last report (L/4427), has succeeded to the GATT on 25 February 1978. This brings the number of countries covered by the Recommendation to twenty-seven.

Letters have been addressed to the governments concerned, upon their independence, advising them that the Recommendation is applicable to their trade relations with the contracting parties and seeking their confirmation that they will reciprocate in applying the General Agreement on a de facto basis.

The governments are regularly kept informed about GATT activities and receive all GATT documents and publications. They are also invited to be represented by observers at the annual sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and some of them have actively participated in the multilateral trade negotiations of the Tokyo Round.

