

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/4917

18 December 1979

Limited Distribution

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Original: English

## MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

### Communication by Austria

With reference to the signature of certain MTN agreements by Austria on 17 December 1979, the representative of Austria transmitted the following note, dated 17 December 1979 by the Federal Ministry for Trade, Commerce, and Industry concerning the de facto implementation of these agreements by Austria within her existing legislation as of 1 January 1980.

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In the context of my signature of certain MTN agreements today I would like hereby to record the following declaration of intent on behalf of the Austrian Government:

1. Austria will proceed without delay to an early and faithful implementation of those MTN agreements that I have today signed on its behalf.
2. The signatures are qualified as being "subject to ratification". The necessary parliamentary procedures in order to lift that qualification will be initiated promptly and maximum efforts will be made to complete them promptly and in any event before mid-March 1980.
3. Such agreements will, however, be implemented de facto within existing legislation as of 1 January 1980. Consequently Austria will act consistently with the provisions of these agreements from that date on.
4. Austria is willing to enter into consultations on eventual problems that might arise regarding these agreements and to accept appropriate dispute settlement procedures related thereto.
5. With respect to the two agreements entering into force on 1 January 1981 (Customs Valuation and Government Procurement), it is the intention of Austria to ratify these agreements simultaneously with the final acceptance by certain major participants in the negotiations. Austria expects to be able to implement these agreements by the date of their entry into force.

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6. Austria expects to participate in the management of the agreements I have signed today as of the date of de facto application by Austria of the respective agreements.

I would appreciate your circulation of this letter to the delegations of the countries that have signed the MTN agreements or any of them today.