

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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## INDONESIA - ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHEDULE XXI

### Extension of Time-Limit

The following communication, dated 13 December 1979, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Indonesia.

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On 27 November 1978 the CONTRACTING PARTIES took a decision to suspend until 31 December 1979 the application of Article II of the General Agreement to enable the Government of Indonesia to apply the rates of duty contained in its customs tariff of 1 February 1973, which might exceed those bound in Schedule XXI, pending completion of negotiations, for modification or withdrawal of concessions in that Schedule subject to the conditions provided for in the Decision of 22 November 1976.

In fact, consultations and preliminary negotiations on Schedule XXI have been undertaken since 1977 when a senior official from the Department of Finance was assigned to the Indonesian Mission in Geneva specifically for that purpose. Since then seven countries have expressed their interest by submitting their respective indicative request lists. However, during the last stages of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, due to shortage of qualified personnel, first priority was directed towards negotiations in the framework of the MTN. The result of those negotiations has enabled Indonesia to submit a list of tariff concessions for inclusion in the Protocol Supplementary to the Geneva (1979) Protocol of GATT. In the meantime, the term of duty in Geneva of the aforementioned official from the Department of Finance has expired and we are now awaiting a replacement. Unfortunately, therefore, we will not be in a position to complete negotiations on Schedule XXI before 31 December 1979. My Government has indicated that it is ready to resume negotiations on Schedule XXI by early next year.

In view of the above, the Government of Indonesia herewith requests the COUNCIL and CONTRACTING PARTIES that the deadline set in paragraph 1 of the Decision of 22 November 1976 be extended by another year to 31 December 1980.

We would be very grateful if sympathetic consideration could be given to our above-mentioned request.

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