

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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INDONESIA - ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHEDULE XXI

Extension of Time-Limit

The following communication, dated 28 October 1980, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Indonesia.

I have the honour to convey to you the following communication for circulation to the Council and CONTRACTING PARTIES and for inclusion in the agenda of the forthcoming Council Meeting.

Based on my communication dated 13 December 1979 (L/4921) to the GATT Secretariat, the Council Meeting of 29 January 1980 approved the text of the draft decision as contained in document C/W/336 and recommended that the decision be adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES in its next meeting. The content of the document is to suspend until 31 December 1980 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.

Since then Indonesia has entered into negotiations with the United States of America and on June 25, 1980 reached an agreement on the List of Items for Inclusion on Indonesia's GATT Schedule XXI. This list will in due time be forwarded by the Indonesian and United States of America Delegations to the GATT Secretariat. Subsequently the Indonesian Permanent Mission in Geneva has informed other delegations who have expressed their interest to enter into consultations with Indonesia on Indonesia's GATT Schedule XXI that it is ready to start discussions on this subject.

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In the meantime the Indonesian Government is in the process of completing the conversion of its current tariffs system into the CCCN classification. The new Indonesian book of tariffs is expected to be out in October 1980, i.e. this month, which will contain the most recent and up-to-date information on all tariffs items and upon publication copies will be forwarded to the Customs Cooperation Council in Brussels and GATT in Geneva for circulation.

It is my considered view that the completion and publication of the new Indonesian book of tariffs would greatly facilitate negotiations on Indonesia's GATT Schedule XXI with a view to reaching mutually satisfactory agreement.

In view of the above, I would like to request the GATT Council and CONTRACTING PARTIES that the time-limit established in paragraph 1 of the Decision of 22 November 1976 be extended until 31 December 1981. I am confident that agreements can be reached between Indonesia and its trading partners on Indonesia's GATT Schedule XXI well before 31 December 1981.

This matter will be incorporated in the agenda of the Council meeting on 10 November 1980.