

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

## TARIFFS AND TRADE

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### BANGLADESH - ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHEDULE LXX

#### Communication from Bangladesh

The following communication dated 18 May 1988 has been received from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh with the request that it be circulated to the contracting parties and considered by the Council at its next meeting.

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is in the final stage of completing the process of transposing its Customs Tariff from the CCC Nomenclature to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System). In the light of the completion of the Harmonized System transposition, the Government of Bangladesh has also decided that its implementation will begin on 1 July 1988. This decision has been based on the fact that a number of Bangladesh's major trading partners have put the Harmonized System into force on 1 January 1988 in line with the decision made by the Customs Co-operation Council to implement the system on that date.

Bangladesh wishes to emphasize that in deciding to adopt the Harmonized System, Bangladesh is engaged in a major exercise to restructure its tariff; it might therefore be necessary to renegotiate some items in its present Schedule LXX on this occasion. Bangladesh is prepared to enter into consultations and negotiations with any interested contracting parties. In view of the time constraint, it will not be possible for Bangladesh to conduct these consultations and negotiations under the procedures of Article XXVIII of the General Agreement before the scheduled date of implementation of the Harmonized System.

The Harmonized System documentation required under the procedures of Article XXVIII is being prepared and will be submitted to the GATT secretariat for circulation to the contracting parties as soon as possible.

In order to enable Bangladesh to implement the Harmonized System on 1 July 1988, Bangladesh therefore requests a temporary exemption from its obligations under Article II of the General Agreement until 30 June 1989.