

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

L/6349

2 June 1988

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Limited Distribution

DE FACTO APPLICATION OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT

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 required to submit a report on its application after three years. Earlier reports have been submitted to the Council in November 1970 (L/3457), November 1973 (L/3948), October 1976 (L/4427), October 1979 (L/4846 and Add.1), July 1982 (L/5345) and July 1985 (L/5823).

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

	<u>Date of independence</u>
Kampuchea	9 November 1953
Mali	20 June 1960
Algeria	3 July 1962
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
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

*See Secretariat Note on de facto application of the General Agreement (C/130).

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	<u>Date of independence</u>
Dominica	3 November 1978
Saint Lucia	22 February 1979
Kiribati	12 July 1979
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	27 October 1979
St. Christopher and Nevis	19 September 1983
Brunei Darussalam	31 December 1983

Upon their independence, letters were addressed to the governments concerned 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.

Since the last report submitted in July 1985 (L/5823), Antigua and Barbuda, Botswana and Lesotho have succeeded to the GATT on 30 March 1987, 28 August 1987 and 8 January 1988, respectively. This brings the number of countries covered by the Recommendation to twenty-eight.

At the Council meeting on 14 May 1987 Algeria announced its intention to negotiate its accession to GATT. A Working Party to examine Algeria's request was set up by the Council on 17 June 1987.

Algeria and Fiji participate in the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations.