

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

TARIFFS AND TRADE

L/6352

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URUGUAY - IMPORT SURCHARGES

Request for Extension of Waiver

The following communication, dated 31 May 1988, has been received from the Permanent Delegation of Uruguay.

The Permanent Delegation of Uruguay to GATT presents its compliments to the GATT secretariat and requests it to bring the attached communication to the attention of the CONTRACTING PARTIES so that the request it contains may be considered at the next meeting of the Council.

As the CONTRACTING PARTIES know, Uruguay is engaged in a process of simplifying, reducing and harmonizing its import tariff through the application of a single tax based on customs value (IMADUNI), as already notified to the CONTRACTING PARTIES (L/6207).

The Interministerial Advisory Technical Committee - the inter-agency body with responsibility for adjusting Uruguay's schedule of tariff concessions - is continuing its work with a view to solving the many technical problems involved in this complex process.

In the task of transposing the import tariff nomenclature, full identification of the negotiated products was not achieved because of numerous differences which arose between the national bodies that are members of the Technical Committee. The reason was that Uruguay's concessions had originally been granted on the basis of the Geneva Code and must be adapted to the current NADI nomenclature, which is based on the Brussels nomenclature.

The Advisory Technical Committee has now achieved almost full identification of the negotiated products by concordance of the items of the Geneva Code with NADI, while there are still divergent interpretations over the concordance of a small number of products.

The Advisory Technical Committee has at the same time continued its work on tariff transposition, requiring the conversion of concessions negotiated on the basis of specific and mixed duties, which are to become

subject to ad valorem duties. It should be noted that this work has been slowed by the fact that harmonization of the nomenclature has not been completed.

Despite this, the Advisory Technical Committee has completed a preliminary transposition of the duties that would be applicable; this is being confirmed at the level of each participating body and is supplemented by data from national sources in respect of products for which there is no information on international prices furnished by the GATT secretariat.

In addition, the Advisory Technical Committee is continuing its work with the appropriate authorities in order to determine the tariff rate to be bound, since the charges and taxes other than customs duties that were applied at the time the concessions were negotiated have been replaced by the single customs tax.

As may be seen from the foregoing, it has not been possible to complete the task of adjusting the concessions appearing in Schedule XXXI to the new tariff structure in force in Uruguay. Accordingly, an extension is requested of the authorization granted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES (L/6207 of 28 August 1987) for the application of surcharges by Uruguay until 30 June 1989, at which time it is hoped that the work will have been completed.

The authorities of Uruguay then hope to propose a new Schedule XXXI for examination under the procedures established by the General Agreement.