

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

L/6433

11 November 1988

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Limited Distribution

SRI LANKA

Establishment of a new Schedule VI

Decision of 8 November 1988

Considering that the Government of Sri Lanka, in a communication dated 6 October 1988 (L/6409), has informed the CONTRACTING PARTIES that it was in the final stage of completing the transposition of its Customs Tariff from the CCCN to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System) and that the Government of Sri Lanka has decided to implement the Harmonized System on 1 January 1989;

Noting that the Government of Sri Lanka has based its decision on the fact that a number of Sri Lanka's trading partners have implemented the Harmonized System on 1 January 1988 or will implement it in the near future;

Considering that the relevant Harmonized System documentation required for the negotiations under Article XXVIII will be submitted to the Secretariat for distribution to contracting parties as soon as possible;

Noting that the Government of Sri Lanka has emphasized that in the process of conversion, it will be ensured that no change in the tariff rates of bound items, the Initial Negotiating Rights or the product descriptions will take place, but that the Government of Sri Lanka is prepared to enter into consultations with any interested contracting parties;

Recognizing that in view of the time constraint, it will not be possible for the Government of Sri Lanka to conduct consultations under the procedures of Article XXVIII of the General Agreement before the scheduled date of implementation;

The CONTRACTING PARTIES, acting pursuant to the provisions of Article XXV:5 of the General Agreement;

Decide, in view of the exceptional circumstances to suspend the application of the provisions of Article II of the General Agreement to enable the Government of Sri Lanka to implement on 1 January 1989, the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, subject to the following conditions:

1. The Government of Sri Lanka will promptly enter into negotiations and consultations with interested contracting parties pursuant to paragraphs 1-3 of Article XXVIII.

2. The negotiations and consultations mentioned above shall be completed not later than 30 June 1989.
3. Pending the entry into force of the results of the negotiations or consultations mentioned above, the other contracting parties will be free to suspend concessions initially negotiated with Sri Lanka to the extent that they consider that adequate compensation is not offered by the Government of Sri Lanka.