

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/6461

27 January 1989

Limited Distribution

COUNCIL
8 February 1989

Original: English

PHILIPPINES - ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHEDULE LXXV

Communication from the Philippines

The following communication dated 25 January 1989 has been received from the Permanent Mission of the Philippines with the request that it be circulated to the contracting parties and considered by the Council at its next meeting.

In accordance with the decision of the Customs Cooperation Council that the CCCN be replaced by the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System) on 1 January 1988, the Government of the Philippines started implementation of the Harmonized System on 19 October 1988.

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 the process of conversion to the Harmonized System, certain bound rates have been reduced while certain rates have been increased. Due to time constraints, however, it was not possible for the Philippines to carry out consultations under the procedures of Article XXVIII of the General Agreement before its implementation of the Harmonized System. The Philippines therefore stands ready to enter into consultations and negotiations with any interested contracting party.

In order to enable the Philippines to finalize the necessary documentation for the negotiations and consultations with interested contracting parties under Article XXVIII, the Philippines requests a temporary exemption from its obligations under Article II of the General Agreement until 31 December 1989.