

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

L/6480

14 March 1989

TARIFFS AND TRADE

Limited Distribution

PHILIPPINES - ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHEDULE LXXV

Decision of 13 March 1989¹

Considering that the Government of the Philippines has notified the CONTRACTING PARTIES (L/6461) that in accordance with the decision of the Customs Co-operation 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 the implementation of the Harmonized System on 19 October 1988;

Considering that the Government of the Philippines is preparing the Harmonized System documentation required under the procedures of Article XXVIII and will circulate it to the contracting parties as soon as possible;

Noting that the Government of the Philippines has indicated that in the process of conversion, certain bound rates have been reduced while certain rates have been increased, and that the Government of the Philippines is prepared to enter into negotiations and consultations with any interested contracting parties;

Recognizing that in view of time constraints, it has not been possible for the Government of the Philippines to conduct negotiations and consultations under the procedures of Article XXVIII of the General Agreement before the 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 the Philippines to implement the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, subject to the following conditions:

1. The Government of the Philippines 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 31 December 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 the Philippines to the extent that they consider that adequate compensation is not offered by the Government of the Philippines.

¹The Decision was adopted by postal ballot. There were 62 votes in favour and none against.