

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/6521

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URUGUAY - IMPORT SURCHARGES

Request for Extension of Waiver

The following communication, dated 7 June 1989, 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 therein 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) (L/6352 of 3 June 1988).

Over the past twelve months substantial progress has been made in the work of adjusting Uruguay's schedule of tariff concessions; the task of transposing the original nomenclature into the NADI nomenclature has largely been completed, and there remain only a limited number of cases still to be determined, basically in generic headings (tariff headings grouped under "Other").

Similarly, the ad valorem equivalents of the duties originally negotiated have been determined for more than 80 per cent of all concessions. In the majority of cases, the ad valorem equivalent of the bound tariff is higher than or equal to that effectively applied.

At the same time, Uruguay has carried forward tariff rationalization process and, in addition to the autonomous tariff reductions made in 1986 and 1987, on 31 May 1989 a further reduction of import tariffs was implemented, bringing the maximum tariff to the level of 35 per cent. On goods already dutiable at the rate of 35 per cent, the tariff has been reduced to 30 per cent, with the exception of certain goods on which the rate has been reduced to 25 per cent. Certain goods in generic headings that were subject to duties of more than 25 per cent will be dutiable at the rate of 25 per cent in certain circumstances.

As may be seen from the attached statistical table, the waiver granted to Uruguay by the CONTRACTING PARTIES has not had protectionist effects, since Uruguay's import trade has expanded substantially, and variations in it clearly reflect the reactions of economic agents in periods of expansion and contraction of the national economy.

Notwithstanding the progress made, 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/6378 of 20 July 1988) until 30 June 1990, at which time it is believed that the work will have been completed.

To this end, the authorities of Uruguay hope to propose a new Schedule XXXI for examination under the procedures established by the General Agreement.

URUGUAY'S TRADE
1961-1988
(\$ million)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Exports</u>	<u>Imports</u>	<u>Balance</u>
1961	174.7	207.7	-33.0
1962	153.4	228.6	-75.2
1963	165.2	175.0	-9.8
1964	178.9	195.2	-16.3
1965	191.2	145.4	45.8
1966	185.8	164.2	21.6
1967	158.7	171.4	-12.7
1968	179.2	157.4	21.8
1969	200.3	197.3	3.0
1970	232.7	230.9	1.8
1971	205.7	228.9	-23.2
1972	214.1	211.6	2.5
1973	321.5	284.8	36.7
1974	382.2	486.7	-104.5
1975	383.8	556.5	-172.7
1976	546.5	587.2	-40.7
1977	607.5	729.9	-122.4
1978	686.1	774.3	-88.2
1979	788.1	1,230.8	-442.7
1980	1,058.5	1,727.3	-668.8
1981	1,215.4	1,598.9	-383.5
1982	1,022.9	1,110.0	-87.1
1983	1,045.1	787.5	257.6
1984	924.6	775.7	148.9
1985	853.6	707.8	145.8
1986	1,087.8	870.0	217.8
1987	1,182.3	1,141.9	40.4
1988	1,404.5	1,176.9	227.6

URUGUAY'S IMPORTS
1961-1988

