

GATT/1578  
18 May 1993

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES BECOMES A CONTRACTING PARTY TO GATT

On 18 May 1993, St. Vincent and the Grenadines became a contracting party to GATT following a notification by its Government to the Director-General, Mr. Arthur Dunkel. St. Vincent and the Grenadines has acceded under the terms of Article XXVI:5(c) of the General Agreement.

The country became independent from the United Kingdom in 1979. Since that time it has had full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations and has applied the General Agreement on a de facto basis. Under these circumstances, St. Vincent and the Grenadines needed only to notify the GATT Director-General that it wished to be deemed a contracting party, having met the conditions required by Article XXVI:5(c).

GATT now has 111 contracting parties.

Notes to Editors

1. The text of Article XXVI:5(c) of the General Agreement is as follows:

"(c) If any of the customs territories, in respect of which a contracting party has accepted this Agreement, possesses or acquires full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations and of the other matters provided for in this Agreement, such territory shall, upon sponsorship through a declaration by the responsible contracting party establishing the above-mentioned fact, be deemed to be a contracting party."

2. In 1991, St. Vincent and the Grenadines' exports amounted to US\$ 65.7 million and imports were valued at US\$ 110.7 million. Agriculture is the principal sector of the economy, and the main crop is bananas, which contributed 44.6 per cent of total merchandise exports in 1989. The islands remained the world's leading producer of arrowroot. There is also a small manufacturing sector, which accounted for 8.9 per cent of GDP in 1989. The main activities include a garment industry, the manufacture of tennis rackets and the processing of agricultural products.

END