

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNG/NG6/TI/1/Add.1

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Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

Negotiating Group on Tropical Products

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RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The attached communication received from the delegation of Hong Kong in response to the requests for additional trade information addressed by the United States (MTN.GNG/NG6/TI/1) is circulated to the members of the Group.

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Hong Kong's Response to United States Request for Information
Dated 30 March 1988

1. Rice is a staple food in Hong Kong. Importation of rice for local consumption is subject to a control scheme to ensure regular and adequate supply at stable prices and to provide a reserve stock for emergency purposes. The scheme stipulates the level of quarterly import quota which is calculated on the basis of demand and consumption pattern in the previous quarter.

2. Under the scheme only registered importers may import rice. To be eligible for registration, the importer has to meet certain requirements, e.g. demonstrated past import ability; established connections with overseas suppliers; sufficient financial resources to hold stock etc. These requirements are maintained to ensure that the importer has the capability and resources to deal with rice trading and stock-keeping. Import licences for registered importers are granted automatically. There is no restriction on the sourcing of rice supply.

3. In 1987, 345,600 tonnes of rice were imported for local consumption.