

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNG/NG6/TI/1/Add.12

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Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

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Negotiating Group on Tropical Products

RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

I wish to refer to your letter dated 30 March 1988 concerning information on trade measures applied to tropical products and confirm that of the twelve products referred to in your letter, only fruit juices, rice, cigarettes, wood and plywood are presently included in Nigeria's import prohibition list. I have enclosed herewith the relevant copy of Nigeria's Import Prohibition List (Trade) as per Federal Official Gazette No. 1 Decree No. 1 Customs, Excise Tariff, etc. (consolidation) Decree 1988, for your information and further necessary action. You may similarly wish to know that a copy of the Decree was made available to the GATT secretariat in the year for general information.

The list of prohibited items has in the wake of Nigeria's Structural Adjustment Programme been pruned down in an unprecedented effort to minimise constraints to free trade. Furthermore, it will be recalled that earlier in 1986, all import and export licences were abolished, exchange control administrative measures relaxed, the second tier foreign exchange market (SFEM) now Foreign Exchange Market (FEM) introduced and the Commodity Boards abolished. The national currency - the Naira - was allowed to find its level through the mechanism of market forces at fortnightly biddings in the foreign exchange market. This bold deregulation of economic operations was hailed as a means of minimising government intervention in the market economy.

With regard to your request on details of price support programme for rice, you may wish to know that the production, distribution and sale of rice are within the purview of the private sector. The Government has, as a result, no specific price support programme for rice except to the extent that the Government normally assists farmers with agricultural inputs like fertilizer which is sold to them at reduced rates to improve output.