

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNG/NG6/TI/1/Add.13  
1 December 1988  
Special Distribution

Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)  
Negotiating Group on Tropical Products

Original: English

RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The following communication received from the delegation of Singapore 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.

SINGAPORE'S REPOSE TO THE US REQUEST  
FOR INFORMATION DATED 30 MARCH 1988

Rice is a staple food in Singapore. Consequently, the import regulations for rice are maintained purely for security purposes. All rice importers are required to be licensed. The imports of rice are also subject to licensing.

2 There are two categories of import licences, namely, the stockpile licence and ordinary licence:

- (i) Licences for stockpile grades of rice are issued only to importers who participate in the Rice Stockpile Scheme. The licence seeks to ensure that the importers stockpile the stipulated types and minimum quantities of rice in proportion to their total imports. The rice stockpile is a reserve stock for emergency use; and
- (ii) Licences for non-stockpile grades of rice are issued automatically.

3 The quantities of rice that are imported into Singapore are decided entirely by the importers themselves. Singapore's average annual imports of rice in the last two years is about 200,000 tonnes.