

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/5309/Add.4

21 June 1982

Limited Distribution

Original: French

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES - SUGAR REGIME

Recourse to Article XXIII by Argentina, Australia,
Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican
Republic, India, Nicaragua, Peru and
the Republic of the Philippines

Addendum

The delegation of the Commission of the European Communities has addressed the following communication, dated 15 June 1982, to the Deputy Permanent Representative of Colombia and has forwarded the text to the secretariat with the request that it be circulated to contracting parties.

I have the honour to refer to your letter of 4 May last in which you reiterated, with the other countries concerned, your request for joint consultations with the Community on sugar, whereas as you yourself recognize, according to the practices followed under the General Agreement, a consultation under Article XXIII is of a bilateral character.

You will therefore understand the delay in replying to your request which clearly departs from those practices. Since there is no precedent, the Community wished to weigh all the consequences that could be implied for the General Agreement itself and for its proper functioning before replying to your request. Furthermore, as you know, in view of the deterioration of the world market for sugar, on 27 April last the Community took the initiative of proposing a plurilateral discussion on the situation with all interested contracting parties.

I am now able to inform you that, following your request, the Community is prepared forthwith to enter into a set of ten bilateral consultations which would be held jointly. The Community underlines that the fact of acceding to your request on this basis in no way implies that it would be disposed to accept joint action at any later stage under paragraph 2 of the same Article.

My colleagues are at your entire disposal for the practical organization of our meeting.