URUGUAY - IMPORT SURCHARGES

Extension of Time-Limit

A communication from the Government of Uruguay concerning import surcharges has been circulated in document L/5043. The following draft decision, extending until 31 December 1981 the validity of the waiver granted to Uruguay on 24 October 1972 (BISD 19S/9), and subsequently extended until 30 June 1978 (Decision of 9 September 1976, BISD 23S/11), and until 31 December 1978 (Decision of 18 July 1978, BISD 25S/14) and until 31 December 1979 (L/4825) is circulated in order to facilitate the consideration by the Council of the communication from the Government of Uruguay.

Considering the Decision taken by the CONTRACTING PARTIES under paragraph 5 of Article XXV on 24 October 1972 to waive, subject to the terms and conditions laid down in the Decision, the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article II of the General Agreement to the extent necessary to allow the Government of Uruguay to apply the import surcharges which were effectively applied on 31 May 1972, the validity of which Decision was, by successive decisions by the CONTRACTING PARTIES, extended until 31 December 1979;

Considering that the Government of Uruguay has been simplifying its import tax system, a part of which efforts was the entry into force in 1 January 1978 of the Single Customs Tax incorporating the surcharges, together with a time-table for reduction of rates, and considering that two such reductions have taken place;

Considering that the Government of Uruguay is continuing the process of adapting Schedule XXXI so as to reflect the simplification of its import tax system, and that it expects to submit a proposed new Schedule XXXI in the course of 1981, to be examined under the relevant GATT procedures;

1/ BISD 19S/9
2/ BISD 23S/11 and BISD 25S/14
3/ L/4646
4/ L/4808
5/ L/4808 and L/5025
Considering that the Government of Uruguay has requested an extension of the above-mentioned Decision until the end of 1981;

The CONTRACTING PARTIES, acting pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 5 of Article XXV of the General Agreement,

Decide that the Government of Uruguay be authorized to maintain the surcharges at present applied by it, subject to the terms and conditions of the Decision of 24 October 1972, until 31 December 1981.