PAKISTAN - RENEGOTIATION OF SCHEDULE

Draft Decision on Extension of Time-Limit

An extension of the time-limit prescribed in the Decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES of 29 November 1977 to waive the obligations under Article II of the General Agreement has been requested by the Government of Pakistan in a communication dated 23 October 1987 (L/6242). The following draft decision is circulated in order to facilitate the consideration by the Council of the request from Pakistan.

Considering that the CONTRACTING PARTIES, by Decision of 29 November 1977, suspended the application of the provisions of Article II of the General Agreement to the extent necessary to enable the Government of Pakistan to maintain in force the rates of duty provided in its revised Customs Tariff, subject to certain specified conditions;

Considering that among the conditions mentioned above was the obligation to conduct negotiations or consultations in conformity with paragraphs 1 to 3 of Article XXVIII and to terminate such negotiations or consultations before 31 December 1979;

Considering that the CONTRACTING PARTIES, by successive decisions, extended the time-limit for the completion of the negotiations or consultations to be conducted by the Government of Pakistan until 31 December 1987;

Considering that the Government of Pakistan has notified that vigorous efforts were made to complete negotiations and consultations, and that negotiations had been completed with a few countries and negotiations and consultations were well advanced with a few others;

Considering that the Government of Pakistan has also advised that it plans to implement the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System) in 1988 and that, immediately after the completion of the present negotiations, Pakistan will have to enter into another Article XXVIII negotiations with a view to introducing the Harmonized System;

1/ BISD 24S/15
2/ L/6096

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Considering that the Government of Pakistan has proposed that, in order to overcome this situation, it may present a new schedule of concessions in the Harmonized System nomenclature which takes into account the negotiations and consultations conducted in terms of the present waiver, and that the proposed schedule will be finalized after the negotiations and consultations with interested contracting parties;

Considering that the Government of Pakistan has therefore requested an extension of the time-limit for the conclusion of the negotiations by one year;

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

Decide that the time-limit provided for in paragraph 3 of the Decision of 29 November 1977 shall be extended until 31 December 1988.