
The following communication, dated 30 May 1968, has been received from the Government of Canada.

Owing to exceptional circumstances which are set forth below, the Canadian Government seeks authorization under paragraph 4 of Article XXVIII to enter into negotiations in order to postpone the coming into force of the concession rates of duty shown opposite tariff items 92801 to 93907-1 inclusive (chemicals and plastics) in Schedule V - (Canada) in the annex to the Geneva (1967) Protocol to the GATT.

In relation to this Kennedy Round schedule of tariff concessions the Canadian Government undertook to introduce not later than 1 July 1968 the concession or final rates of duty in any cases where no base rates are specified. The negotiations on chemicals and plastics were carried on in terms of a revised nomenclature as recommended by the Canadian Tariff Board and based on the Brussels Nomenclature. Because the proposed new schedule for chemicals and plastics represented a complete departure from the present Canadian tariff structure it was not feasible to indicate base rates. This new tariff schedule involves complex changes in nomenclature as well as a new structure of tariff rates, and accordingly requires legislative action by the Canadian Parliament and cannot be implemented by executive action.

The special circumstances giving rise to this request relate to the dissolution of the Canadian Parliament and the holding of a General Election. Because of these events it will not be possible for the Canadian Government to implement the proposed new chemicals and plastic schedule by 1 July. The Canadian Government therefore now seeks authority to enter into negotiations under the provisions of Article XXVIII with the object of securing the agreement of the other signatories concerned that the implementation of these concessions be delayed until 1 January 1969.

Canada is prepared to enter into discussions immediately with contracting parties who claim an interest in items 92801 to 93907-1.
If the CONTRACTING PARTIES authorize the holding of negotiations under Article XXVIII it may be necessary for these negotiations to continue beyond 1 July. In view of this the Canadian Government requests that a waiver be granted under Article XXV:5 from the relevant provisions of Article II.

The Canadian Government therefore asks that this request for authority to enter into negotiations under Article XXVIII:4 be placed on the agenda of an early meeting of the GATT Council and that at the same meeting of Council consideration be given to the request of the Canadian Government that the CONTRACTING PARTIES be asked to approve a waiver under Article XXV:5 from the relevant provisions of Article II.