URUGUAY - IMPORT SURCHARGES

Decision of 18 July 1986

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 11 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 30 June 1986;

Considering that the Government of Uruguay has been simplifying its import tax system, a part of which efforts was the entry into force on 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 engaged in a difficult and complex process of simplification, reduction and harmonization of its import tariff through the application of a unified tax to be applied on the customs value, and that it expects to submit a proposed new Schedule XXXI to be examined under the relevant GATT procedures;

Considering that this task has progressed well and that a statistical breakdown of import trade in the framework of GATT is now available and will constitute an important element for possible negotiations of the adjusted Uruguayan schedule;

1 The Decision was adopted by postal ballot. There were 52 votes in favour and none against.
2 BISD 19S/9
3 BISD 32S/20
4 L/4646
5 L/4808
6 L/4808 and L/5025
Considering that the Government of Uruguay has requested an extension of the above-mentioned Decision until 30 June 1987;

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 30 June 1987.