NOTIFICATION IN PURSUANCE OF PARAGRAPH 3
OF THE UNDERSTANDING REGARDING NOTIFICATION,
CONSULTATION, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT AND SURVEILLANCE

Communication from Australia

The following communication, dated 26 March 1991, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Australia, for circulation to the contracting parties.

Australia - Trade Liberalization: New Industry Policies

The Australian Government on 12 March 1991 announced further reductions in import tariffs, tariff quotas and industry assistance as part of a wider package of measures to make Australia more internationally competitive. These measures will result in Australia having an average nominal rate of industry assistance of 3 per cent by the year 2000.

In 1988 the Australian Government introduced an across-the-board program to phase down most tariffs to levels of either 10 per cent or 15 per cent by 1992. Separate Sectoral Plans provided for phased reductions in assistance for passenger motor vehicles and textiles, clothing and footwear.

Under the new measures:

- General Tariffs for items with General rates of 10 per cent and 15 per cent in 1992 will be further reduced to a General rate of 5 per cent by 1996.

- Tariffs on passenger motor vehicles will be phased down from 35 per cent in 1992 in annual steps of 2.5 percentage points to 15 per cent by the year 2000.

- Programmed tariff reductions on textiles, clothing and footwear will be accelerated, resulting in a maximum General rate of 25 per cent by the year 2000. The termination of tariff quotas for this sector will be brought forward by two years to March 1993 and production bounties paid to manufacturers of textiles will be abolished by 1 July 1995.
Tariffs on most agricultural products will be phased down to 5 per cent between 1 July 1993 and 1 July 1996 in line with reductions in protection for the general manufacturing sector.

Developing country tariff preference arrangements are to be maintained. However, margins of preference for Singapore, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan will be phased out after 1 July 1992 on items on which tariffs are being reduced.

Documents setting out in detail the full range of measures announced by the Government have been lodged with the Secretariat for the information of contracting parties.1

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1Copies are available for consultation in Office No. 1061 of the GATT Secretariat.