The following communication, dated 7 November 1994, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka.

Reference to your fax of 26 October 1994 on the above subject. As requested, I set out below the required information to be submitted to the Committee on Tariff Concessions:

1. Date of original waiver: 8 November 1988\(^1\).

2. Date of submission of documents relevant to the HS implementation: 12 January 1990.


4. Number of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been initiated: three (Australia, New Zealand and the United States).

5. Number of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been concluded: none.

6. Status of outstanding Article XXVIII negotiations as well as a general outline of relevant problems: these negotiations could not be concluded as the delegations concerned were pre-occupied with a variety of other priority matters in GATT and it is expected to resume negotiations very early with a view to accelerating the process of finalization.

7. Outlook for concluding the process: Sri Lanka wishes to assure her trading partners that every effort will be made to conclude these negotiations as early as possible within the next period of extension sought, if not earlier.

In view of time constraints, it may not be possible to conclude these negotiations before the stipulated time-limit, i.e. 31 December 1994. Therefore, considering the above circumstances, the Government of Sri Lanka requests a further extension of the exemption from its obligations under Article II of the General Agreement until 30 June 1995.

To facilitate consideration of this matter, the text of a draft decision is annexed.

\(^1\)BISD 35S/22.
W.50/7
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ANNEX

SRI LANKA - ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHEDULE VI

Draft Decision on Extension of Time-Limit

Considering that the CONTRACTING PARTIES, by their Decision of 8 November 1988\(^1\), suspended the application of the provisions of Article II of the General Agreement to the extent necessary to enable the Government of Sri Lanka to implement the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System) on 1 January 1989 and carry out negotiations subsequently;

Considering that, by successive Decisions, the CONTRACTING PARTIES extended the time-limit for the completion of the negotiations or consultations to be conducted by the Government of Sri Lanka until 31 December 1994\(^2\);

Taking into account that the relevant Harmonized System documentation necessary for the renegotiations under Article XXVIII has been circulated to contracting parties with document SECRET/HS/26 on 12 January 1990;

Considering that the Government of Sri Lanka has initiated Article XXVIII negotiations with Australia, New Zealand and the United States, but that these negotiations could not be finalized as the delegations concerned were pre-occupied with a variety of other priority GATT matters;

Noting that the Government of Sri Lanka expects to resume negotiations very early with a view to accelerating the process of finalization;

Noting that the Government of Sri Lanka wishes to assure her trading partners that every effort will be made to conclude these negotiations as early as possible within the next period of extension;

Considering that the Government of Sri Lanka has requested a further extension of the exemption of its obligations under Article II of the General Agreement until 30 June 1995;

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

Decide, in view of the exceptional circumstances, to extend the time-limit provided for in the Decision of 8 November 1988, until 30 June 1995.

\(^1\)BISD 35S/22.

\(^2\)L/7514.