AUTONOMOUS TRADE LIBERALIZATION MEASURES
TAKEN BY THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT SINCE SEPTEMBER 1986

The following communication, dated 26 November 1990, has been received from the Permanent Delegation of Colombia.

Taking into consideration that on the occasion of the Mid-Term Review the Ministers agreed that participants will receive appropriate recognition for liberalization measures adopted since 1 June 1986 (paragraph 2(c) for tariffs and 2(h) for non-tariff measures), the Colombian Government has pleasure in presenting to the GATT contracting parties a summary of the substantial changes made in the field of tariffs, import licensing and import surcharge.

With respect to tariffs, graphs Nos. 1, 2 and 4 show the reduction in nominal and weighted terms between 1986 and 1990, reflecting a substantial diminution of dispersion, since the number of tariff headings has decreased from twenty-three to nine. It is important to underline, as noted in graph No. 3, that at present around 60 per cent of the headings in the Colombian tariff are subject to duty rates of less than 20 per cent.

With respect to import licensing, far reaching changes have been made. In the first place, the system of import prohibition has been eliminated and, as may be seen from graph No. 5, there has been a large-scale transfer of products from the prior licensing list to the free import list. Whereas in 1986, 36.2 per cent of all tariff headings could be freely imported, by September 1990 this figure had risen to 96.7 per cent, in other words virtually the entire Colombian customs tariff.

The import surcharge, which in 1986 was at the rate of 18 per cent, was reduced to 16 per cent in March 1990 and more recently to 13 per cent. See Table No. 7.

In addition to this autonomous trade liberalization process, Colombia has presented a substantial improvement in its tariff offer.

1 In Spanish only

GATT SECRETARIAT
UR-90-0726
The initial offer included some 1,700 tariff headings, with customs duties of between 5 and 15 per cent and a level of binding of 40 per cent. The new offer provides for a reduction of the level of binding from 40 per cent to 25 per cent for products included in the initial list, and for the establishment of a level of binding of 50 per cent for the rest of the tariff, with a few exceptions in respect of some agricultural products, goods relevant to national security and certain chemicals under special control. If this offer is compared with the thirty-six tariff headings bound by Colombia in 1981 on the occasion of its accession to GATT, one can appreciate the major effort which our country is making to contribute to successful achievement of the agreed objectives of these negotiations.
Arancel Promedio Nominal para Bienes de Capital*
1986-1990
Una reducción promedio del 46.10%

Nota: Clasificación CUODE
Fuente: INCOMEX
15-XI-90 MAS
* Bienes de Capital representan el 35.62 % del total importado en 1989.
Arancel Promedio Ponderado para Bienes de Capital*
1986-1990
Una reducción promedio del 43.35%

Nota: Clasificación CUODE
Fuente: INCOMEX
Distribución Arancelaria por Rangos

Un aumento del 230.1% en posiciones incluidos en el Rango Menor que el 20%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rango Arancelario:</th>
<th>Total Posiciones</th>
<th>Porcentaje</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mayor que 60%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>0.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entre 40 y 60%</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>14.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entre 20 y 40%</td>
<td>51.3%</td>
<td>29.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menor que 20%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>56.25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pre-Uruguay

Actual

Fuente: INCOMEX
15-XI-90 MAS
Distribución del Arancel Colombiano por Niveles
1986-1990
Reducción de 23 niveles a 9 niveles

Porcentaje del Total de Posiciones

Arancel

[Diagrama de barras mostrando la distribución del arancel colombiano por niveles]

Fuente: INCOMEX
15-XI-90 MAS
Evolución del Regimen de Licencias de Importaciones 1986-1990

Un aumento del 174.40% en posiciones con régimen de Libre Importación*

Pre-Uruguay

- Prohibida 1.1% (No. Pos. 55)
- Previa 62.7% (No. Pos. 3,156)

Actual

- Libre 96.7% (No. Pos. 4,994)
- Previa 3.3% (No. Pos. 170)

* Aprobación Automática

Fuente: INCOMEX
20-XI-90 MAS
Regimen de Importaciones Actual

Libre 96.7%  
(No. Pos. 4.994)

Previa 3.3%  
(No. Pos. 17)

1990

Fuente: INCOMEX
15-XI-90 MAS
GRAFICA No. 7

Sobretasa*
Reduccion del 27.78%

* Aplica al Universo Arancelario

Fuente: INCOMEX
18-X-90 MAAS