CHINA'S STATUS AS A CONTRACTING PARTY

Communication from the People's Republic of China

The following communication from the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China, dated 10 July 1986, has been received by the Director-General for distribution to contracting parties.

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the People's Republic of China, recalling the fact that China was one of the original contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, has decided to seek the resumption of its status as a contracting party to GATT.

China is currently pursuing the basic national policy of opening to the outside world and revitalizing the domestic economy and will adhere to it in the years to come. It is the firm belief of the Government of the People's Republic of China that the ongoing process of economic reform will contribute to the expansion of economic and trade relations with the contracting parties, and that the participation of China as a contracting party in the work of the GATT will further the objectives of the General Agreement. China is a developing country. The Chinese Government expects to receive treatment equivalent to that accorded to other developing contracting parties.

China is prepared to enter into negotiations with GATT contracting parties on the resumption of its status as a contracting party. To this end, it will provide information on its economic system and foreign trade régime.

I shall feel obliged if you could transmit this request of the Government of the People's Republic of China to the contracting parties for their consideration.