ACCESSION OF BULGARIA

Communication from the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria

The following communication, dated 8 September 1986, from the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, has been transmitted to the Director-General with the request that it be circulated to contracting parties prior to the Ministerial Session at Punta del Este.

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria has decided to apply for accession to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Bulgaria's is an open economy. Over one half of its national income is earned through exports on the international market. Bulgaria maintains active international trade with over 100 partners from all regions of the world including virtually all GATT contracting parties.

Bulgaria has enjoyed observer status within the GATT since 1967. It took part in the "Tokyo Round" of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. Participation in GATT activities has permitted the accumulation of relevant experience towards becoming a contracting party to the General Agreement.

As a developing economy Bulgaria believes that becoming a contracting party to the General Agreement will broaden the possibilities for the country's participation in world trade as an important means for accelerated economic development. It is prepared to contribute to furthering the objectives of the General Agreement and assume the corresponding rights and obligations. We expect at the same time that our economy's actual level of development will be taken into consideration by the contracting parties when the conditions of Bulgaria's participation in GATT activities are discussed.

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The economic and trade policy instruments being introduced at present within the context of the general evolution of economic policy in Bulgaria correspond to the basic principles and objectives of the General Agreement and thus ensure the effective participation of Bulgaria as a contracting party to the GATT.

May I request that this communication be circulated to all contracting parties and that the secretariat grant its assistance with a view of early initiation of accession procedures under the provisions of Article XXXIII of the GATT. Bulgaria intends to take the necessary steps to negotiate with the contracting parties the terms of its accession to the GATT in the course of the new round of multilateral trade negotiations.