

21 NOVEMBER 1978

SUBJECT: ACCESSION OF THE PHILIPPINES

1. THE WORKING PARTY ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNCIL ON 14 NOVEMBER 1978 TO EXAMINE THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR ACCESSION TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE WILL MEET ON 5-6 DECEMBER 1978. THE MEETING WILL COMMENCE ON 5 DECEMBER AT 3 P.M. IN THE CENTRE WILLIAM RAPPARD, 154 RUE DE LAUSANNE, GENEVA.
2. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING PARTY ARE AS FOLLOWS: "TO EXAMINE THE APPLICATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES TO ACCEDE TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT UNDER ARTICLE XXXIII AND TO SUBMIT TO THE COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH MAY INCLUDE A DRAFT PROTOCOL OF ACCESSION".
3. A MEMORANDUM ON THE FOREIGN TRADE REGIME OF THE PHILIPPINES HAS BEEN CIRCULATED IN L/4724. IN THIS CONNEXION, CONTRACTING PARTIES ARE INVITED TO SEND TO THE SECRETARIAT ANY QUESTIONS THEY MAY HAVE SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE OF THE WORKING PARTY MEETING SO THAT THEY CAN BE PASSED ON TO THE PHILIPPINES DELEGATION FOR REPLY IN THE COURSE OF THAT MEETING.
4. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THE DECLARATION CONCERNING THE PROVISIONAL ACCESSION OF THE PHILIPPINES (L/3909) STATES, INTER ALIA, THAT ACCESSION TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT BY THE PHILIPPINES SHALL BE PRECEDED BY TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS WITH CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE GENERAL AGREEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. ACCORDINGLY, CONTRACTING PARTIES WISHING TO ENTER INTO TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS ARE INVITED TO CONTACT THE PHILIPPINES DELEGATION IN GENEVA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND NO LATER THAN 1 DECEMBER.
5. CONTRACTING PARTIES WISHING TO SERVE ON THE WORKING PARTY, AS WELL AS OTHER CONTRACTING PARTIES AND ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WISHING TO BE REPRESENTED BY OBSERVERS AT THE MEETING ARE REQUESTED TO INFORM ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF THE NAMES OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES.

O. LONG