

GATT/AIR/378

28 JANUARY 1964

SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF TIME LIMIT FOR RENEGOTIATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII:1

UNDER THE PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE NOTES AND SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO PARAGRAPH 1 OF ARTICLE XXVIII (SEE ANNEX I TO THE GATT), AS MODIFIED BY THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE (TN.64/SR.2), SEVERAL CONTRACTING PARTIES GAVE DUE NOTICE IN 1963 OF THEIR INTENTION TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS TO MODIFY OR WITHDRAW CERTAIN CONCESSIONS IN THEIR SCHEDULES.

THE TIME LIMIT FOR THE CONCLUSION OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS WAS EXTENDED BY THE COUNCIL, AT ITS MEETING IN DECEMBER, UNTIL 31 JANUARY 1964 (SEE C/M/19) AND IT WAS AGREED THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE SUBMITTED FOR THE FORMAL APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES AT THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION. HOWEVER, THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY HAS BEEN ADVISED BY SOME OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED THAT THEY DO NOT EXPECT TO HAVE CONCLUDED THEIR NEGOTIATIONS BY 31 JANUARY AND THEREFORE WISH TO REQUEST A FURTHER EXTENSION.

IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT ON THE PREVIOUS OCCASION WHEN NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE MODIFICATION OR WITHDRAWAL OF CONCESSIONS WERE PERMITTED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH 1 OF ARTICLE XXVIII - AT THE END OF 1960 - THE TIME LIMIT FOR THE CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS EXTENDED SEVERAL TIMES, NAMELY:

BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES, UNTIL 31 MARCH 1961 - DECISION OF
19 NOVEMBER 1960 (9S/29)

BY THE COUNCIL, UNTIL 19 MAY 1961 (C/M/5, PAGE 5)

BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES, UNTIL THE END OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION
(SR.18/5, PAGE 75)

BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES, UNTIL 31 MAY 1962 (SR.19/9, PAGE 151)

IT IS THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT, UNLESS ANY CONTRACTING PARTY REQUESTS A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER THIS MATTER, THE TIME LIMIT BE CONSIDERED AS EXTENDED UNTIL THE END OF THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION, BY WHICH TIME THE APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL'S ACTION AND THE REQUEST FOR A FURTHER EXTENSION CAN BE DEALT WITH BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES.

IT WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE RESERVATION BY AUSTRALIA AS TO ANY POSSIBILITY OF IMPAIRMENT OF ITS LEGAL RIGHTS UNDER THE GENERAL AGREEMENT, AS RECORDED IN COUNCIL MINUTES C/M/19, WOULD APPLY EQUALLY TO THIS FURTHER EXTENSION.

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