

SECRET

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

No. 274

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23 December 1987

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ARTICLE XXVIII:5 NEGOTIATIONS

Schedule I - Commonwealth of Australia

Addendum

The following communication, dated 22 December 1987, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Australia.

In GATT Document SECRET/324 of 3 March 1987, Australia notified the CONTRACTING PARTIES that it intended to withdraw a number of concessions bound in Schedule I - Australia.

I have been requested to provide an interim report on these negotiations for the information of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. Negotiations have been engaged with the European Communities and the United States of America. Offers of compensatory concessions have been made. However these negotiations have not yet been completed. Consultations have also been held with Canada and Japan.

I wish to advise the CONTRACTING PARTIES that Australia is proceeding to withdraw the concessions notified in SECRET/324 with effect from 1 January 1988 which is the operative date for changes that the Australian Government announced in October 1986 covering the Chemical and Plastics Industry and which required negotiations in respect of these concessions. Australia had made clear from the outset of these negotiations that it intended to pursue this course. The compensatory concessions offered in the negotiations will also be implemented on 1 January 1988.

Australia is prepared to continue negotiations and consultations with those parties which have indicated an interest in the concessions concerned and with which a conclusion is still to be reached. A final report on these negotiations will be provided in due course in accordance with normal procedures.