

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

L/6807

14 January 1991

Limited Distribution

Original: English

ADMISSION OF MACAO AS A CONTRACTING PARTY

Communication from the People's Republic of China

The following communication was received in the Secretariat on 11 January 1991, with the request that it be brought to the attention of the contracting parties.

Upon instruction by Foreign Minister Qian Qichen of the People's Republic of China and with reference to the statement submitted to Your Excellency today by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Portugal to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, I have the honour to forward to you the statement of the Government of the People's Republic of China dated 11 January 1991.

In accordance with the Joint Declaration of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Portugal on the Question of Macao signed in Beijing on 13 April 1987, the People's Republic of China shall resume the exercise of sovereignty over Macao as from 20 December 1999. As part of the territory of the People's Republic of China, Macao shall become a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China thereafter and the People's Republic of China shall take charge of the foreign affairs of Macao.

In accordance with the relevant provisions of Article 2 of and Annex I to the Joint Declaration, the Macao Special Administrative Region will remain a free port and a separate customs territory in order to develop its economic activities; its current social and economic systems will remain unchanged; it may decide on its own its economic and trade policies; the Macao Special Administrative Region may on its own, using the name of "Macao, China", maintain and develop relations and conclude and implement agreements with all States, regions and relevant international organizations in the economic, trade and other fields. The Macao Special Administrative Region shall also continue to participate in relevant international organizations and international trade agreements such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the Arrangements regarding International Trade in Textiles.

./.

The Government of the People's Republic of China hereby declares that the Macao Special Administrative Region, as a separate customs territory, meets the requirements of Article XXVI:5(c) of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade concerning customs territory being deemed as a contracting party and shall therefore continue to be deemed as a contracting party to the General Agreement in the name of "Macao, China".