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1 ARTICLE XXVII OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE 1994

1.1 Text of Article XXVII

Article XXVII

Withholding or Withdrawal of Concessions

Any contracting party shall at any time be free to withhold or to withdraw in whole or in part any concession, provided for in the appropriate Schedule annexed to this Agreement, in respect of which such contracting party determines that it was initially negotiated with a government which has not become, or has ceased to be, a contracting party. A contracting party taking such action shall notify the CONTRACTING PARTIES and, upon request, consult with contracting parties which have a substantial interest in the product concerned.

1.2 Withholding or withdrawal of concessions made in multilateral trade negotiations

1. Paragraph 4 of the Marrakesh Protocol provides:

"After the schedule annexed to this Protocol has become a Schedule to GATT 1994 pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 1, such Member shall be free at any time to withhold or to withdraw in whole or in part the concession in such Schedule with respect to any product for which the principal supplier is any other Uruguay Round participant the schedule of which has not yet become a Schedule to GATT 1994. Such action can, however, only be taken after written notice of any such withholding or withdrawal of a concession has been given to the Council for Trade in Goods and after consultations have been held, upon request, with any Member, the relevant schedule relating to which has become a Schedule to GATT 1994 and which has a substantial interest in the product involved. Any concessions so withheld or withdrawn shall be applied on and after the day on which the schedule of the Member which has the principal supplying interest becomes a Schedule to the GATT 1994."

2. On GATT practice, see the document on Article XXVII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1947 (GATT Analytical Index, pages 927-931).

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