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WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS
5 July 1996

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SRI LANKA - ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHEDULE VI

Request for Extension of Time-Limit

The following communication, dated 10 June 1996, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka.

I refer to your fax of 3 June 1996 on the above subject. As requested therein, I furnish below the factual information concerning the status of Sri Lanka's waiver.

1. Date of original waiver: 8 November 1988¹.
2. Date of submission of documents relevant to the HS implementation: 12 January 1990².
3. Number of extensions and dates when granted: thirteen extensions, as follows: 24/07/89; 16/07/90; 07/12/90; 01/07/91; 04/12/91; 20/07/92; 03/12/92; 19/07/93; 17/01/94; 21/07/94; 09/12/94; 31/08/95 and 13/12/95.
4. Number of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been initiated: four (Australia, European Union, New Zealand and United States).
5. Number of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been concluded: none.
6. Status of outstanding Article XXVIII negotiations as well as a general outline of relevant problems: the present position is that a few more rounds of negotiations will be required to conclude the process subsequent to the receipt of the responses from the authorities.
7. Outlook for concluding the process: although the authorities in Colombo were continuing preparatory work for negotiations, the extraordinary security situation and the disruption of the functioning of the Central Bank have placed severe constraints in completing the preparatory work. Additionally, the continuously rising prices of milk powder, which is one of the important products figuring in these negotiations, have compelled the government to review its policy towards imports. This has become an extremely sensitive political issue. Therefore, these negotiations cannot be concluded before the end of June 1996. However, the process of preparatory work could be completed in a few months time.

¹BISD, 35S/22.

²SECRET/HS/26.

In view of the above circumstances, Sri Lanka will require another extension of six months from 1 July 1996 to 31 December 1996 to conclude the negotiations. Sri Lanka's concerned trading partners can be assured that within the period of the requested extension, these negotiations will definitely be finalized to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.