

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

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**COUNCIL FOR TRADE IN GOODS
1 December 1995**

Original: English

SRI LANKA - ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SCHEDULE VI

Extension of Time-Limit

The following communication, dated 15 November 1995, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka.

I refer to your fax of 13 November 1995 on the above subject. As requested therein, I set out 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: twelve 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 and 31/08/95.
4. Number of countries with which Article XXVIII negotiations have been initiated: four (Australia, New Zealand, United States and European Union).
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 another few rounds of negotiations will be required to conclude the process after the receipt of the responses from our authorities, which has been delayed mostly due to the extraordinary security situation in the country and the consequent difficulties in coordinating the responses.
7. Outlook for concluding the process: at the time of the granting of the last waiver, although it was expected that the negotiations could be concluded on schedule under normal circumstances, the extraordinary security situation in the country has placed severe constraints in obtaining responses and consequently the current expectations are that these negotiations cannot be concluded before the end of this year.

In view of the exceptional situation as set out above, Sri Lanka will require another extension of six months from 1 January to 30 June 1996 to complete the process. Sri Lanka's concerned trading partners can be assured that, within the period of the requested extension, these negotiations will be definitely finalized to the mutual satisfaction of all parties concerned.

¹BISD 35S/22.

²SECRET/HS/26.