

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

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26 February 1997

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Council for Trade in Services

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BASIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS - VERIFICATION OF SCHEDULES

Communication from Japan

The delegation of Japan has requested that the attached communication to the Secretariat about the verification¹ of schedules and MFN exemption lists resulting from the basic telecommunication negotiations should be circulated for the information of Members.

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*This document cancels and replaces the document dated 26 February 1997.

¹ The Secretariat is about to issue a short note on the verification process proposing that a one day informal meeting for this purpose should take place on Friday, 14 March 1997.

MISSION PERMANENTE DU JAPON
AUPRES DES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES
GENEVE-SUISSE

Geneva, 26 February 1997

Dear Mr. Hartridge,

First of all, I would like to thank you on behalf of the Japanese Delegation for the efforts by yourself and your colleagues towards the successful conclusion of the negotiations on basic telecommunications.

Upon instruction from my authorities, I would like to request the verification process now under way to be accelerated. In Japan, the Fourth Protocol to the GATS must be ratified by the Japanese Diet. The ordinary session of the Diet has already started and is scheduled to end on 18 June. Unless Tokyo can receive the certified copy of the Protocol (including the Schedules of Specific Commitments and the Lists of Article II Exemptions of all Members concerned) by the end of March, ratification during the current session will become practically impossible. Since the current session may be the final one this year, missing the above-mentioned deadline will mean that the ability for Japan to meet the deadline of 30 November 1997 will become uncertain.

I would like to thank you for your understanding on the matter and would also appreciate it if the present communication could be distributed to all Members concerned.

Yours sincerely,

Jun YOKOTA
Minister