

ARTICLE XXXII
CONTRACTING PARTIES

I.	TEXT OF ARTICLE XXXII.....	1013
II.	INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF ARTICLE XXXII.....	1013
1.	Paragraph 1.....	1013
(1)	<i>“governments”</i>	1013
(2)	<i>Status as a contracting party</i>	1013
2.	Paragraph 2.....	1014
III.	PREPARATORY WORK AND SUBSEQUENT MODIFICATIONS.....	1015
IV.	RELEVANT DOCUMENTS.....	1015

I. TEXT OF ARTICLE XXXII

Article XXXII

1. The contracting parties to this Agreement shall be understood to mean those governments which are applying the provisions of this Agreement (Articles XXVI or XXVII or XXVIII) which have decided that any contracting party which has not so accepted it shall cease to be a contracting party.

II. INTERPRETATION

AND APPLICATION OF ARTICLE XXXII

1. Paragraph 1

(1) *“governments”*

The contracting parties were defined as “governments” and not as “states” or “nations” so that governments with less than complete sovereignty could be contracting parties to GATT.¹ A number of such governments have been contracting parties, including Southern Rhodesia when it was under United Kingdom sovereignty, Hong Kong and Macau.

(2) *Status as a contracting party*

The government of Southern Rhodesia, upon certification by the United Kingdom of its autonomy in commercial matters, participated in the negotiation of the General Agreement during the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee for the Havana Conference, was a signatory of the Final Act of the Second Session, and accepted the Protocol of Provisional Application under paragraph 3 thereof, thereby acquiring the status of a contracting party.² On 12 November 1965, the United Kingdom delegation gave notice that “Her Majesty’s Government in the United Kingdom consider the Southern Rhodesian Government’s purported declaration of

independence to be an act of rebellion against the authority of Her Majesty's Government and against the

III. PREPARATORY WORK AND SUBSEQUENT MODIFICATIONS

There is no equivalent Article in the Havana Charter. Article XXXII was drafted at the Geneva session of the Preparatory Committee as part of the final provisions for the General Agreement. The words "or XXXIII" were added in 1948 by the Protocol Modifying Certain Provisions of the General Agreement. (c)34equ he Gen7(h)-1.7