

SECRETno. 80

GATT/AIR/190 (SECRET)

8 APRIL 1960

SUBJECT: MEETING OF INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE - 20 APRIL 1960
REQUESTS BY AUSTRALIA UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII:4

TWO COMMUNICATIONS DATED 2 AND 6 APRIL HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA REQUESTING THAT THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE BE CONVENED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR AUTHORITY TO RENEGOTIATE, UNDER PARAGRAPH 4 OF ARTICLE XXVIII, CERTAIN CONCESSIONS IN SCHEDULE I. THESE COMMUNICATIONS ARE REPRODUCED BELOW.

ACCORDINGLY, I PROPOSE THAT THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE MEET IN THE PALAIS DES NATIONS AT 3 P.M. ON 20 APRIL 1960, TO CONSIDER THESE REQUESTS.

I. COMMUNICATION OF 2 APRIL

"THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT REQUESTS AUTHORITY UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII, PARAGRAPH 4, TO RENEGOTIATE THE FOLLOWING CONCESSIONS ACCORDED UNDER SCHEDULE I.

"PART I - MOST-FAVORED-NATION:

TARIFF ITEM 255 (A), GLUE IN DRY FORM - PER LB. 3d. OR AD VALOREM 30 PER CENT WHICHEVER RATE RETURNS THE HIGHER DUTY.

"PART II - PREFERENTIAL TARIFF:

ITEM 179 (D) (1), DYNAMO ELECTRIC MACHINES, VIZ. (a) (1) (a). ALTERNATING CURRENT MACHINES - INDUCTION TYPE - 1 HORSEPOWER AND UP TO AND INCLUDING 150 HORSEPOWER N.E.I. AD VALOREM 22½ PER CENT.

ITEM 255 (C) (2), GELATINE, VIZ. - ALL OTHER KINDS - PER LB. 1d. OR AD VALOREM 17½ PER CENT WHICHEVER RATE RETURNS THE HIGHER DUTY.

"THE CONCESSION UNDER ITEM 255 (A) WAS NEGOTIATED INITIALLY WITH FRANCE IN 1947, WHILE THE CONCESSIONS UNDER ITEMS 179 (D) (1) (a) (1) (a) and 255 (C) (2) WERE NEGOTIATED WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1947. FRANCE IS THE PRINCIPAL MOST-FAVORED-NATION SUPPLIER UNDER ITEM 255 (A). AS CONCESSIONS UNDER ITEM 179 (D) (1) (a) (1) (a) and 255 (C) (2) ARE ON PREFERENTIAL RATE ONLY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CONTemplates NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM ONLY ON THESE TWO ITEMS.

SENT BY : Executive Secretary, GATT, Tel. address : ICITO GENEVA

ENVOYÉ PAR : Secrétaire Exécutif, GATT, Adresse télégraphique : ICITO GENÈVE

"THE AUSTRALIAN REQUEST ARISES FROM RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMONWEALTH TARIFF BOARD FOLLOWING PUBLIC ENQUIRIES TO DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE LEVELS OF PROTECTION. THE BOARD FOUND THAT A SMALL INCREASE IN DUTIES ON ALTERNATING CURRENT MACHINES WAS WARRANTED. IT RECOMMENDED THAT, ON GLUE AND GELATINE, ADDITIONAL PROTECTION AGAINST COMPETITION FROM LOW PRICED SUPPLIERS SHOULD BE AFFORDED THROUGH AN INCREASE IN ALTERNATIVE FLEED RATE DUTIES.

"IT IS NECESSARY TO NEGOTIATE THE PRESENT CONCESSIONS BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT MAY GIVE EFFECT TO THE TARIFF BOARD'S RECOMMENDATIONS."

IN CONNECTION WITH THIS REQUEST, THE FOLLOWING IMPORT STATISTICS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED (ALL FIGURES ARE SHOWN IN AUSTRALIAN POUNDS):

	<u>1956/57</u>	<u>1957/58</u>	<u>1958/59</u>
<u>ITEM 179 (D) (1)</u> <u>(a) (1) (a)</u>			
UNITED KINGDOM	667,075	636,618	605,979
<u>TOTAL</u>	882,706	892,831	975,604
<u>ITEM 255 (A)</u>			
UNITED KINGDOM	25,737	15,108	9,592
FRANCE	3,264	-	18
<u>TOTAL</u>	29,073	16,851	9,618
<u>ITEM 255 (C) (2)</u>			
UNITED KINGDOM	57,177	45,484	53,250
<u>TOTAL</u>	95,806	106,702	126,755

II. COMMUNICATION OF 6 APRIL

"THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT REQUESTS AUTHORITY UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII, PARAGRAPH 4, TO RENEGOTIATE THE CONCESSIONS ON RADIO AND TELEVISION EQUIPMENT ACCORDED UNDER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN SCHEDULE I (FULL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE GOODS CONCERNED ARE INCLUDED IN THE ACCOMPANYING STATISTICAL DATA), VIZ:

"PART I - MOST-FAVOURLED-NATION TARIFF:

ITEMS 179 (D) (2) (a) (1) (b), 180 (E) (8), 180 (E) (12) (a), 180 (E) (14), 181 (A) (2) AND ex 305 (A).

"PART II - PREFERENTIAL TARIFF:

ITEMS 179 (C), 179 (D) (2) (a) (1) (b), 180 (E) (12) (a), 180 (E) (14), 180 (E) (15), 180 (E) (16), 180 (F), 180 (I), 180 (L) (2), 181 (A) (2), ex 305 (A) AND 319 (B) (1).

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"THE COUNTRIES WITH WHOM THE CONCESSIONS WERE INITIALLY NEGOTIATED ARE SHOWN IN THE ATTACHED STATISTICAL DATA, WHICH ALSO REVEALS THE PRINCIPAL PREFERENTIAL AND MOST-FAVOURLED-NATION SUPPLIERS.

"THIS REQUEST ARISES FROM THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AUSTRALIAN TARIFF BOARD FOLLOWING ITS RECENT PUBLIC ENQUIRY INTO THE NEED FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE AUSTRALIAN RADIO AND TELEVISION INDUSTRIES.

"AT PRESENT TARIFF CLASSIFICATION OF RADIO AND TELEVISION EQUIPMENT IS COMPLICATED AND FROM AN ADMINISTRATIVE POINT OF VIEW, REVISION OF THE TARIFF HAS BEEN LONG OVERDUE.

"ALTHOUGH VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE INDUSTRY HAVE BEEN REVIEWED BY THE TARIFF BOARD FROM TIME TO TIME THERE HAS NEVER BEFORE BEEN A REVIEW OF THE INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE. IN FACT IT IS MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS SINCE THE BOARD REVIEWED ANY IMPORTANT SECTION OF THE INDUSTRY. APART FROM INVESTIGATING THE PROTECTIVE NEEDS OF THE INDUSTRY THE TARIFF BOARD HAS ALSO ENQUIRED INTO THE WAYS AND MEANS OF SIMPLIFYING AND MODERNIZING THE TARIFF INSOFAR AS IT RELATES TO THE GOODS WHICH WERE UNDER REFERENCE. AS A RESULT IT IS PROPOSED TO ADOPT A TARIFF STRUCTURE ALONG THE LINES OF THE BRUSSELS NOMENCLATURE.

"UNDER THE NEW TARIFF FOR RADIO AND TELEVISION EQUIPMENT MANY TARIFF RATES WILL REMAIN AT THEIR PRESENT LEVEL BUT OTHERS WILL BE RAISED AND SOME LOWERED. DUTY INCREASES, IN THE MAIN, ARE NECESSARY FOR THE ADEQUATE PROTECTION OF AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY. HOWEVER, IN SOME INSTANCES DUTY CHANGES WILL NOT BE OF GREAT PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE BUT TECHNICAL OBSERVANCE OF GATT OBLIGATIONS NECESSITATES A RENEGOTIATION OF THE CONCESSIONS ACCORDED UNDER THOSE ITEMS. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT AUSTRALIA WILL BE IN A POSITION TO ACCORD NEW CONCESSIONS UNDER THE PROPOSED TARIFF STRUCTURE WHICH WILL ADEQUATELY COMPENSATE FOR THE MODIFICATION OF CURRENT CONCESSIONS."

THE RELEVANT IMPORT STATISTICS FURNISHED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS REQUEST WILL BE DISTRIBUTED SEPARATELY IN DOCUMENT SECRET/113.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE