

SECRET

GATT/AIR/191 (SECRET)

NO. 74
11 APRIL 1960

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

A FURTHER COMMUNICATION DATED 8 APRIL HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA REQUESTING THAT THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE, AT ITS MEETING ON 20 APRIL (SEE GATT/AIR/190 (SECRET)), SHOULD CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION:

"THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT REQUESTS AUTHORITY UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII, PARAGRAPH 4, TO RENEGOTIATE THE CONCESSION ACCORDED UNDER THE FOLLOWING ITEM IN SCHEDULE I, PART I - MOST-FAVOURLED-NATION TARIFF;

"ITEM 140 (C), COPPER, VIZ: ANGLES, BARS, ETC. PER LB. 6d. AND AD VALOREM 45 PER CENT, SUBJECT TO A REDUCTION BY AN AMOUNT PER TON CALCULATED BY MULTIPLYING THE DETERMINED PRICE OF COPPER AT THE DATE OF EXPORTATION OF THE GOODS BY 0.55 (BRITISH PREFERENTIAL TARIFF AND INTERMEDIATE TARIFF), 0.6875 (GENERAL TARIFF).

"FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUB-ITEM THE DETERMINED PRICE OF COPPER SHALL BE THE WEEKLY AVERAGE, AS DETERMINED BY THE MINISTER, OF THE LONDON METAL EXCHANGE QUOTATIONS FOR ONE TON OF ELECTROLYTIC COPPER WIRE BARS.

"THE CONCESSION UNDER ITEM 140 (C) WAS NEGOTIATED INITIALLY WITH BENELUX IN 1947. THE PRINCIPAL MOST-FAVOURLED-NATION SUPPLIER IS THE UNITED STATES.

"THIS REQUEST ARISES FROM A RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TARIFF BOARD.

"THE TARIFF BOARD HAS FOUND THAT THE AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY WAS WELL ESTABLISHED AND EFFICIENT BUT WAS SUFFERING CERTAIN COST DISABILITIES COMPARED WITH OVERSEAS COPPER MANUFACTURERS. MOREOVER, THE BOARD CONSIDERED THAT AUSTRALIAN PROCESSORS SHOULD BE SAFEGUARDED AGAINST SUBSTANTIAL FALLS IN THE PRICE OF PRIMARY COPPER.

"BECAUSE THE PROPOSED RATE OF DUTY IS TIED TO THE PRICE OF COPPER, THE POSITION COULD ARISE WHERE THAT RATE WOULD EXCEED THE BOUND RATE. FOR THIS REASON, IT IS NECESSARY TO RENEGOTIATE THE CONCESSION.

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

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

"IMPORT STATISTICS ARE:

	1956/57 £A	1957/58 £A	1958/59 £A
UNITED KINGDOM	642,039	694,870	558,454
CANADA	4,389	6,616	6,829
NEW ZEALAND	-	-	24
AUSTRIA	-	39	-
GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF	222	3	26
NETHERLANDS	631	-	90
SWITZERLAND	1,752	2,871	4,588
TOTAL	<u>649,033</u>	<u>704,405</u>	<u>570,042"</u>

E. WYNDHAM WHITE