

GATT/AIR/214

23 DECEMBER 1960

SUBJECT: MEETING OF THE COUNCIL - 5 JANUARY 1961

AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, I AM CONVENING A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN THE PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA, AT 11 A.M. ON THURSDAY, 5 JANUARY 1961 TO CONSIDER THE UNITED STATES REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY, UNDER PARAGRAPH 4 OF ARTICLE XXVIII, TO ENTER INTO CERTAIN RENEGOTIATIONS.

THE COMMUNICATION RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS REPRODUCED BELOW.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

" I have the honour to inform you that, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4 of Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the United States Government wishes to request the authority of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to enter into negotiations for the modification or withdrawal of the following concessions contained in Part I of Schedule XX (Geneva 1947 and Annex):

<u>Tariff Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Rate of Duty</u>
371	Bicycles with or without tyres, having wheels in diameter (measured to the outer circumference of the tyre):	
	Over 25 inches:	
	If weighing less than 36 pounds complete without accessories and not designed for use with tyres having a cross sectional diameter exceeding 1-5/8 inches.....	\$1.25 each, but not less than 7½% nor more than 15% ad val.
	Other.....	\$2.50 each, but not less than 15% nor more than 30% ad val.

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

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

<u>Tariff Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Rate of Duty</u>
	Over 19 but not over 25 inches...	\$2 each, but not less than 15% nor more than 30% ad val.
	Not over 19 inches.....	\$1.25 each, but not less than 15% nor more than 30% ad val.

Country of initial negotiation: United Kingdom
 Other principal supplying countries: Federal Republic of Germany, Netherlands, Austria, Italy

412 Spring clothespins..... 10¢ per gross

Provided, that if less favourable customs treatment for spring clothespins is established by or pursuant to a proclamation issued by the President of the United States of America, pursuant to proceedings instituted 27 April 1949, in accordance with Article XI of the Trade Agreement of 23 December 1942, between the United States of America and the United Mexican States, the treatment of spring clothespins for the purposes of this item shall be that so established.

Country of initial negotiation: Sweden
 Other principal supplying countries: Denmark, Belgium, Netherlands, United Kingdom (for Hong Kong)

" Pursuant to Article XIX, these rates were modified as follows:

<u>Tariff Paragraph</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Rate of Duty</u>
371	Bicycles with or without tyres, having wheels in diameter (measured to the outer circumference of the tyre): Over 25 inches: If weighing less than 36 pounds complete without accessories and not designed for use with tyres having a cross sectional diameter exceeding 1-5/8 inches.....	\$1.87½ each, but not less than 11-1/4% nor more than 22½% ad val.

<u>Tariff Paragraph</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Rate of Duty</u>
	Other.....	\$3.75 each, but not less than 22½% nor more than 30% ad val.
	Over 19 inches but not over 25 inches.....	\$3.00 each, but not less than 22½% nor more than 30% ad val.

"The above modification was made effective 19 August 1955, by proclamation 3108. Tariff concessions in compensation for this action were subsequently negotiated with the supplying countries concerned, and are now in effect.

412	Spring clothespins.....	20¢ per gross
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"The above modification of duty and a corresponding duty modification in the rate on spring clothespins the product of Cuba (increased from 8¢ to 18¢ per gross) were made effective on 10 December 1947, by proclamation 3211. Negotiations with the supplying countries concerned are in progress with a view to effecting compensation in the form of substantially equivalent concessions.

"In denying the Government's request to appeal, the Supreme Court of the United States has let stand a decision of the Court of Customs and Patent Appeals which held void that portion of the presidential escape-clause proclamation relating to so-called lightweight large-wheeled bicycles and has cast doubt on the validity of other bicycle rates in proclamation 3108 and on the validity of the rates for spring clothespins in proclamation 3211. It is believed that the present situation with regard to imports of these articles warrants a determination that special circumstances exist within the meaning of Article XXVIII.

"The foregoing circumstances are of such nature that the United States desires to conduct negotiations, if authorized, as expeditiously as possible. Subject to agreement of the supplying countries concerned, it is proposed to conduct the negotiations at Washington, D.C.

"Relevant statistical data are appended."

Wooden and plastic spring clothespins: United States imports for consumption, by principal sources, 1958-59 and January-September 1960

Country	1958 ¹	1959 ¹	Jan-Sept. 1960 ¹
Quantity (1,000 gross)			
Sweden	607	693	415
Denmark	547	512	193
Netherlands	261	319	333
Hong Kong	42	269	251
Belgium	176	185	141
Finland	25	94	54
Yugoslavia	61	71	25
West Germany	38	56	39
Japan	13	35	21
All other	31	47	24
Total	1,801	2,281	1,496
Value (1,000 dollars)			
Sweden	248	284	170
Denmark	216	209	85
Netherlands	108	134	135
Hong Kong	12	93	81
Belgium	63	61	46
Finland	9	33	19
Yugoslavia	20	23	8
West Germany	17	19	13
Japan	5	11	8
All other	14	18	9
Total	712	883	574

¹Preliminary

Bicycles: Quantity and value of United States imports for consumption by principal sources, 1957-59

Country	1957	1958 ¹	1959 ¹
Quantity (number)			
United Kingdom	265,797	264,092	256,298
West Germany	311,600	253,707	353,473
Netherlands	70,590	107,625	153,579
France	7,268	662	838
Italy	2,980	9,336	25,976
Japan	648	8,366	9,591
Belgium and Luxemburg	10,217	69,005	90,864
Austria	64,589	54,850	68,475
Czechoslovakia	11,412	55,551	51,539
Total, all countries	748,689	823,614	1,013,396

Foreign Value			
United Kingdom	\$6,279,955	\$6,540,906	\$6,085,044
West Germany	5,053,613	4,222,529	5,584,486
Netherlands	1,330,410	2,024,272	2,922,868
France	177,196	21,728	37,346
Italy	79,809	241,070	624,545
Japan	12,541	153,424	194,851
Belgium and Luxemburg	171,174	960,189	1,241,826
Austria	1,341,838	1,205,653	1,511,945
Czechoslovakia	151,349	637,492	578,486
Total, all countries	14,652,281	16,020,153	18,844,495

¹Preliminary