

No. 87

GATT/AIR/303 (SECRET)

5 OCTOBER 1962

SUBJECT: SCHEDULE I - AUSTRALIA - REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE  
UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII:4

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION, DATED 1 OCTOBER 1962, HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION:

"AUSTRALIA REQUESTS AUTHORITY UNDER ARTICLE XXVIII, PARAGRAPH 4, TO RENEGOTIATE THE CONCESSIONS ON WOOLLEN PIECE-GOODS ACCORDED UNDER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 1:

"105(E)(1) VELVETS, VELVETEENS, PLUSHES, ASTRACHANS, SEALETTE AND CLOTHS IMITATING FURS, EXCEPT PIECE-GOODS ENUMERATED IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF THIS SUB-ITEM; 15 PER CENT AD VALOREM.

"105(F)(1) PIECE-GOODS OF WOOL, OR CONTAINING WOOL, N.E.I.: 6d PER SQUARE YARD AND 40 PER CENT AD VALOREM.

"THE CONCESSION UNDER ITEM 105(E)(1) WAS NEGOTIATED WITH BENELUX IN 1947 AND GERMANY IS THE PRINCIPAL RECOGNIZED GATT SUPPLIER. THE CONCESSION UNDER ITEM 105(F)(1) WAS NEGOTIATED WITH FRANCE IN 1947 AND ITALY IS THE PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER FOR THIS ITEM.

"THIS REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY TO RENEGOTIATE IS MADE FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF A REPORT FROM THE AUSTRALIAN TARIFF BOARD ON WOOLLEN PIECE-GOODS. THE BOARD CONDUCTED A COMPREHENSIVE INQUIRY INTO THE AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY AFTER TEMPORARY DUTIES WERE IMPOSED IN MAY 1961. AS WAS EXPLAINED IN THE ARTICLE XIX NOTIFICATION, L/1497 OF 31 MAY 1961, THE TEMPORARY DUTIES RESULTED FROM A RECOMMENDATION FOR URGENT ACTION TO PROTECT THE AUSTRALIAN WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TEXTILE INDUSTRY AGAINST SERIOUS DAMAGE FROM IMPORTS PENDING A FULL ENQUIRY INTO THE PROTECTIVE NEEDS OF THE INDUSTRY.

"THE DUTIES ON WOOLLEN PIECE-GOODS RECOMMENDED BY THE TARIFF BOARD ARE CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN THE TEMPORARY DUTIES. ALTERNATIVE DUTY OF 45 PER CENT OR 5/6d. PER SQUARE YARD, WHICHEVER RATE RETURNS THE HIGHER DUTY, WILL APPLY TO PIECE-GOODS WEIGHTING MORE THAN 4½ OZ. PER SQUARE YARD, AND A DUTY OF 45 PER CENT TO THOSE NOT EXCEEDING 4½ OZ. ON THE HEAVIER FABRIC, WITH A VALUE FOR MORE THAN 12/3d. PER SQUARE YARD, THE VARIATION FROM THE BOUND LEVEL WILL BE SOMETHING LESS THAN 5 PER CENT AD VALOREM. IT IS PROPOSED TO REINSTATE THE BINDING ON VELVETS, VELVETEENS AND PLUSHES.

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

ENVOYÉ PAR : Secrétaire exécutif, GATT, Adresse télégraphique : GATT GENÈVE

"AUSTRALIA INTENDS TO INTRODUCE THE NEW DUTIES IMMEDIATELY ON SUCH OF THE GOODS AS ARE COVERED BY THE TERMS OF THE ARTICLE XIX NOTIFICATION AND WISHES TO WITHDRAW THIS NOTIFICATION AT THE EARLIEST, BUT THIS WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE BEFORE THE ARTICLE XXVIII NEGOTIATIONS REQUESTED HEREIN HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED. IMPORTS OF THE GOODS COVERED BY THE CONCESSIONS, EXPRESSED IN £ -,000, HAVE BEEN:

| <u>ITEM 105(E)(1)</u> | <u>1958/59</u> | <u>1959/60</u> | <u>1960/61</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| UNITED KINGDOM        | 106.9          | 163.3          | 305.9          |
| FRANCE                | 180.1          | 190.6          | 351.0          |
| ITALY                 | 112.1          | 157.1          | 192.6          |
| BENELUX               | 65.3           | 44.4           | 30.3           |
| GERMANY F.R.          | 167.4          | 208.2          | 287.5          |
| CZECHOSLOVAKIA        | 49.4           | 165.8          | 156.6          |
| JAPAN                 | 822.3          | 1285.1         | 227.0          |
| OTHER COUNTRIES       | <u>35.4</u>    | <u>162.5</u>   | <u>283.0</u>   |
| <u>TOTAL</u>          | <u>1538.9</u>  | <u>2377.0</u>  | <u>2733.0</u>  |

| <u>ITEM 105(F)(1)</u> | <u>1958/59</u> | <u>1959/60</u> | <u>1960/61</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| UNITED KINGDOM        | 1237.1         | 1441.5         | 1596.1         |
| FRANCE                | 66.3           | 103.7          | 98.1           |
| ITALY                 | 170.4          | 228.2          | 426.9          |
| BENELUX               | 27.2           | 8.6            | 12.4           |
| GERMANY F.R.          | 18.0           | 24.4           | 26.1           |
| CZECHOSLOVAKIA        | -              | 24.0           | 68.0           |
| JAPAN                 | 84.0           | 55.4           | 58.8           |
| OTHER COUNTRIES       | <u>18.6</u>    | <u>61.7</u>    | <u>94.1</u>    |
| <u>TOTAL</u>          | <u>1621.6</u>  | <u>1947.5</u>  | <u>2380.5</u>  |

"THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT REQUESTS THAT THE GATT COUNCIL GIVE THIS REQUEST EARLY CONSIDERATION."

THIS REQUEST WILL ACCORDINGLY BE REFERRED TO THE COUNCIL (22 OCTOBER 1962).

E. WYNDHAM WHITE