

AIRGRAM

TÉLÉGRAMME PAR AVION

GATT/AIR/45

5 MAY 1954

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY IMPORT TAX IMPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION FROM THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, DATED 20 APRIL, WAS RECEIVED ON 28 APRIL:

"PLEASE INFORM THE CONTRACTING PARTIES THAT AS FROM 21 APRIL 1954 THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WILL IMPOSE A TEMPORARY TAX OF 15 PER CENT ON THE IMPORTATION OF THOSE PRODUCTS FOR WHICH - WHEN THEY ORIGINATE IN, OR COME FROM, OEEC COUNTRIES - IMPORT LICENCES WILL NOW BE AUTOMATICALLY AND IMMEDIATELY GRANTED TOGETHER WITH AN AUTOMATIC GRANT OF THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE REQUIRED FOR PAYMENT.

"THE VALUE ON WHICH THIS TAX WILL BE COLLECTED IS THAT OF THE IMPORTED PRODUCT AT THE TIME OF ENTRY, WHICH VALUE IS, AS A GENERAL RULE, THE OBJECT OF A SETTLEMENT BY MEANS OF AN INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF FUNDS.

"IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE I OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE, THE TAX WILL BE LEVIED UNIFORMLY ON IMPORTS FROM ALL COUNTRIES CONSIDERED AS CONTRACTING PARTIES UNDER THE TERMS OF ARTICLE XXXII OF THAT AGREEMENT.

"FOR CERTAIN PRODUCTS THE RATE HAS BEEN PROVISIONALLY REDUCED TO 10 PER CENT IN ORDER TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PRICES IN THE PRINCIPAL MARKETS SUPPLYING FRANCE AND IN ORDER TO AVOID THE RISK OF AN ABNORMAL REDUCTION OF TRADITIONAL TRADE.

"THE LIST OF THE PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO THE TAX WILL BE FOUND IN THE JOURNAL OFFICIEL OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, DATED 18 APRIL 1954."

E. WYNDHAM WHITE

A copy of this airgram was sent to:

Foreign Ministers including Japan, (for information;)

C.C. 12 L.O.'s and Perm. Reps. marked "For Information",

and a copy for information to the Chairman of C.P.'s