

GATT/AIR/534

31 JANUARY 1966

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

AT THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES, DURING A REVIEW OF NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED FROM CONTRACTING PARTIES CONCERNING QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS WHICH THEY ARE APPLYING CONTRARY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT AND WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES, IT WAS NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF CONTRACTING PARTIES HAD NOT SUBMITTED THE NOTIFICATION CONCERNING SUCH RESTRICTIONS WHICH IS ENVISAGED IN THE AGREED PROCEDURES (NINTH SUPPLEMENT, PAGES 18-20), WHILST OTHERS HAD NOT COMMUNICATED ANY RECENT CHANGES IN THEIR IMPORT RESTRICTIONS. THE SECRETARIAT WAS THEREFORE ASKED TO MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO OBTAIN FROM ALL CONTRACTING PARTIES A COMPLETE AND UP-TO-DATE LISTING OF RESTRICTIONS OF THIS KIND CURRENTLY IN FORCE, SO THAT THE DOCUMENTATION BEFORE THE 1966 SESSION MAY BE INFORMATIVE AND ACCURATE. THIS ITEM IS ON THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL BEGINNING ON 14 MARCH 1966.

ACCORDINGLY I REQUEST EACH CONTRACTING PARTY TO COMPARE ITS EXISTING IMPORT RESTRICTIONS (INCLUDING QUOTAS, DISCRETIONARY OR ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSING, PROHIBITIONS, RESTRICTIONS MADE EFFECTIVE THROUGH STATE-TRADING OPERATIONS, OR OTHER DEVICES) WITH THE LATEST NOTIFICATIONS TO THE GATT (L/2336 AND ADDENDA, AND THE DOCUMENTATION IN SERIES COM.TD) OF INFORMATION CALLED FOR UNDER THE PROCEDURES OUTLINED IN THE ELEVENTH SUPPLEMENT, PAGES 206-210, AND TO NOTIFY ME OF ANY REVISIONS REQUIRED TO MAKE THE NOTIFICATIONS COMPLETE AND UP TO DATE.

IN THIS CONNEXION, I NOTE THAT A NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS DO NOT AT PRESENT CONTAIN SUFFICIENT INFORMATION OF THE KIND SPECIFIED IN THE PROCEDURES TO PERMIT DETERMINATION OF THE TREATMENT APPLICABLE TO INDIVIDUAL PRODUCTS WHEN IMPORTED FROM PARTICULAR COUNTRIES. IN OTHER INSTANCES THERE IS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT MODIFICATIONS IN THE RESTRICTIVE SYSTEM HAVE OCCURRED SINCE THE LAST NOTIFICATION.

FINALLY, THERE ARE SOME TWENTY-NINE CONTRACTING PARTIES, INCLUDING TWENTY-ONE NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES, THE STATUS OF WHOSE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS HAS NEVER BEEN DETERMINED. EVEN IF THESE COUNTRIES ARE NOT YET IN A POSITION TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO INVOKE AS JUSTIFICATION THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE XVIII CONCERNING RESTRICTIONS MAINTAINED FOR DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES OR ON BALANCE-OF-PAYMENT GROUNDS, IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE THAT THEY FURNISH TO THE SECRETARIAT A LIST OF ALL IMPORT RESTRICTIONS IN FORCE, FOR CIRCULATION TO CONTRACTING PARTIES AS A MATTER OF GENERAL INFORMATION.

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IN SUBMITTING A NOTIFICATION, CONTRACTING PARTIES MAY, OF COURSE, REFER TO DATA ALREADY MADE AVAILABLE TO THE SECRETARIAT IN THIS REGARD OR IN ANY OTHER CONNEXION AND SUPPLY ONLY WHAT IS NECESSARY TO MAKE THE DATA COMPLETE OR TO BRING THEM UP TO DATE. FOR EXAMPLE A CONTRACTING PARTY WHICH HAS RECENTLY SUBMITTED INFORMATION ON RESIDUAL RESTRICTIONS AFFECTING PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS REQUIRED BY THE GROUP ON RESIDUAL RESTRICTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT WILL NEED ONLY TO SUPPLY INFORMATION ON RESTRICTIONS NOT ALREADY COVERED IN THAT CONTEXT.

TO PERMIT TIMELY ISSUANCE OF A COMPILATION OF THESE RESTRICTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL AND THE CONTRACTING PARTIES, YOUR REPLY SHOULD BE IN THE HANDS OF THE SECRETARIAT BY THE END OF FEBRUARY AT THE VERY LATEST.

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