

GATT/AIR/94

20 JULY 1956

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS - TO BE  
DISCUSSED AT MEETING OF INTERSESSIONAL  
COMMITTEE ON 26 JULY

1. BY LETTER DATED 3 JULY 1956, THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TRANSMITTED A STATEMENT MADE BY THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER ON 25 JUNE, ANNOUNCING CERTAIN CHANGES IN ITS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS TO BE EFFECTIVE ON 1 JULY. THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ESTIMATED THAT THE NEW LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS WOULD CAUSE A REDUCTION IN THE LEVEL OF IMPORTS OF ABOUT 140 MILLION F.O.B. IN A FULL YEAR. THE TEXT OF THAT STATEMENT WAS CIRCULATED IN L/493 AND DETAILS, WHICH HAVE JUST BEEN RECEIVED, ARE BEING CIRCULATED IN L/493/ADD.1.

2. AS A MEETING OF THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE HAS BEEN CONVENED FOR 26 JULY (SEE GATT/AIR/93(SECRET)), TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA FOR AUTHORITY TO RENEGOTIATE CERTAIN ITEMS IN ITS SCHEDULE, I PROPOSE THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD AT THE SAME TIME EXAMINE THESE MODIFICATIONS INTRODUCED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA IN ITS BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING WHETHER THEY CONSTITUTE A SUBSTANTIAL INTENSIFICATION IN THE SENSE OF THE SECOND PART OF THE FIRST SENTENCE OF ARTICLE XII:4(b) AND WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA SHOULD ACCORDINGLY BE INVITED TO CONSULT WITH THE CONTRACTING PARTIES.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE

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