

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED  
LIMITED B  
GATT/CP.6/5/Add.1  
11 September 1951  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

CONTRACTING PARTIES  
Sixth Session

## Termination of Obligations between the United States and

### Czechoslovakia under the Agreement

#### Addendum

#### Statement by Czechoslovakia

The following statement has been received from the Government of Czechoslovakia:

"The Czechoslovak Government has received from the Secretariat of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade the document GATT/CP.6/5 of August 10, 1951.

"The document contains a statement according to which the Government of the United States of America has determined to withdraw from Czechoslovakia the benefits of trade-agreement tariff concessions, arising out of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The United States further proposes that at the Sixth Session of the Contracting Parties all the obligations existing between it and Czechoslovakia by virtue of the provisions of this Agreement be terminated.

"The Czechoslovak Government considers it necessary to draw the attention of the Governments of the contracting parties to this document, for it is firmly convinced that the proposal of the United States concerns a question fundamental to international relations in general. It is not possible to establish co-operation, peace and security among nations, if it is admitted that the foundation of every co-operation among nations, i.e. the rules of international law and international agreement may be unilaterally and flagrantly violated in favour of the narrow interests of one of the participants. Respect for accepted international obligations is an unconditional prerequisite to the legal security of nations, to peaceful co-existence and international economic development.

"The Czechoslovak Government therefore wishes primarily to draw the attention of the Governments of the contracting parties to this aspect of the matter, for if the right of an economically influential state to exercise pressure on another state, disagreeing with its policy and defending its sovereignty against foreign interference were once to be admitted, then none of the contracting parties could be certain that its rights deriving from the General Agreement will not be unilaterally violated, and that in this way the objectives, the realization of which it pursued when it acceded to the Agreement, will not be frustrated.

"Since March 1, 1948, the United States has introduced the control of exports, directed, in support of its foreign policy, against certain countries, among others Czechoslovakia, and has continually intensified this policy regardless of the principles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, as well as of the United Nations Charter and in contradiction to the principles in the name of which the United States proposed the summoning of the International Conference on Trade and Employment and the conclusion of a General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

"Already in 1949, when the Czechoslovak Government objected to the discrimination of the American export regime, the United States justified its measures by reasons of the security of the state, although the peaceful endeavour of the Czechoslovak Republic is generally known as well as the fact that Czechoslovakia never and in no way threatened the United States.

"At present the United States has abandoned even this pretext and is advancing fictional 'political arguments', directed against the Czechoslovak internal order. These arguments have nothing in common with trade relations. They are of such a nature that they quite evidently reveal the intention, to exercise pressure on Czechoslovakia in matters, which are exclusively within her own jurisdiction.

"The proposal attempts, by distorting actual facts, to put the indispensable measures of the Czechoslovak Government aimed at the defence of the security of the state, in such a light, as if they would threaten or make the maintenance of normal trade relations between the Czechoslovak Republic and the United States impossible.

"All the contracting parties are well aware that Czechoslovakia has always scrupulously observed the principles as well as all the provisions of the Agreement, and even the Government of the United States of America cannot cite a single example of the slightest violation of any of the provisions of the Agreement by Czechoslovakia. It is therefore clear that this is another attempt to achieve political ends by means of economic pressure. In order to impose its further discriminatory measures against one of the contracting parties to the General Agreement, the United States intends to misuse the Agreement itself, by attempting to have its procedure legalized at the Sixth Session of the Contracting Parties.

"The Government of the Czechoslovak Republic resolutely rejects all attempts of the United States to exercise pressure on the Czechoslovak Republic and to interfere with Czechoslovak internal affairs. The Czechoslovak people directs its own affairs according to its own national and state interests, and in its international relations it is guided by the principle of respect of the international obligations it has taken upon itself and by the principle of equality and non-interference. On the other hand it insists that obligations must be upheld also by the other party and that they cannot be annulled by unilateral unlawful and forceful acts.

"The Government of the Czechoslovak Republic is convinced that it is also the desire of the Contracting Parties, that the General Agreement should not be misused for the enforcement of political intentions by interfering into the internal and foreign policy of member states, and so undermining the conditions of international economic development, and installing, instead of the co-operation to which the states have pledged themselves, the principle of a forceful, unilateral imposition of a foreign will, by means of the violation of agreements."

