

RESTRICTED

C/83

19 January 1970

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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

COUNCIL

22-23 January 1970

1970 CONSULTATIONS ON BALANCE-OF-PAYMENT RESTRICTIONS

Note by the Secretariat

1. In accordance with the provisions of Article XII:4(b) and XVIII:12(b) contracting parties applying import restrictions for balance-of-payments reasons are required to consult with the CONTRACTING PARTIES annually or once every two years on the nature of their balance-of-payments difficulties, alternative corrective measures that may be available and the possible effect of the restrictions on the economies of other contracting parties. The procedures for such consultations as agreed upon by the CONTRACTING PARTIES are set forth in BISD, Seventh Supplement, on pages 90-92 and 97-98.
2. Among the contracting parties and associated governments that have invoked the provisions of Article XII or XVIII:3 and apply balance-of-payments restrictions, the following are expected to enter into such consultations with the CONTRACTING PARTIES in the course of 1970: Burma, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, New Zealand, Peru, Spain, United Arab Republic, Uruguay and Yugoslavia. The consultations with Finland, Greece and Indonesia are those due in 1969 which have been postponed for practical reasons. In the case of Peru the Council has decided that the action recently taken by that Government constituted a substantial intensification of the restrictions and called for a consultation under the provisions of paragraph 12(a) as well as those of paragraph 12(b) of Article XVIII.
3. In fixing the exact dates for these consultations, account will have to be taken of the dates of the previous consultations with the respective governments and the convenience of the governments concerned. It would also be necessary to take into account the consultation programme of the International Monetary Fund so as to ensure that the fullest and most up-to-date information would form part of the Fund's contribution in implementation of the provisions of Article IV:2 of the General Agreement.
4. The secretariat is at present ascertaining the views of the parties concerned and expects to circulate a time-table for the consultations at a later stage. As a first approximation, it is envisaged that the consultations scheduled for 1970 might be carried out at three sessions of the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions: the first session to take place in March, the second some time in the summer, and a third session towards the end of the year. Subject to the considerations stated in paragraph 3 above, the consultations might be timed as follows:

<u>March</u>	<u>June/September</u>	<u>December</u>
Finland	Burma	Israel
Iceland	Ghana	New Zealand
Indonesia	Greece	Spain
Peru	UAR	Uruguay
	Yugoslavia	