

THIRD COMMITTEE: GENERAL COMMERCIAL POLICY

DRAFT CHARTER

GREECE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Amendment to Article 20, paragraph 2 (a) of the Draft Charter

Alternative A: Delete the word "temporarily".

Alternative B: Add the following sentence at the end of paragraph 2 (a):

"Such measures may be applied for a longer period of time in the case of foodstuffs, the annual crop of which is subject to intermittent fluctuation."

Grounds

The delegation of Greece has particularly in mind the production of olive oil, which covers almost all the fat requirements of the Greek population.

It is well known that the olive oil crop is subject to intermittent fluctuation.

It is, therefore, absolutely essential that our country should be able to impose restrictions on export, both during years in which the crop is good in order in anticipation of a shortage in the next crop and during years of scarcity.

ARTICLE...  
To be inserted between Articles 23 and 24 of the Draft Charter.

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 20, paragraph 1, and Article 22, paragraph 1, Members whose position is exceptional inasmuch as the general state of their economy and the well-being of their people are dependent on one or two agricultural products, each product being considered as a single product throughout all the phases of production and processing, may, in order to facilitate the export of the production products, impose discriminatory quantitative restrictions on imports or maintain the restrictions in force on the date of signature of this Charter, provided that:

- (1) in the case of a single product, the product represents one-third, and in the case of two products, approximately one-half of the average

- average total annual value of the country's exports during a previous base period.
- (ii) the product or products are not generally regarded as essentials, either because of their nature or because of other circumstances or conditions and thus normally encounter special obstacles to their exportation.
  - (iii) any Member, interested in the possible application of this Article, shall have notified the other governments signatory of this Charter, on the day of general signature of the Charter and before its signature, of each of the products which, in their opinion, meet the conditions set forth above.
2. Members who propose to maintain restrictions after 1 March 1952 under paragraph 1 of this Article shall seek the approval of the Organization. The Organization shall then decide whether the maintenance of such measures by the Member concerned is legitimate.

#### Grounds

The delegation of Greece has particularly in mind the difficulties encountered in exporting tobacco and currants.

These two commodities are almost the only two export products which can be grown rationally and economically in Greece and which are perfectly adapted to the natural agricultural conditions.

Tobacco cultivation, processing and trade give employment in Greece to nine hundred thousand people, while the currant industry employs five hundred thousand (including dependents).

Greek tobacco and currants (tobacco from Thrace and Macedonia, currants from Corinth and Crete) are of exceptionally high quality and require close attention both in their cultivation and processing, which involves an increase in the cost of production and in the price. As they are no longer considered as essentials, great difficulty is found in selling them abroad.

These difficulties have been increased, especially in the case of tobacco, by the fact that it is not offered for sale directly to the broad masses of consumers; it is offered indirectly through State monopolies and large-scale cigarette manufacturers, who are able to direct the taste of their customers.

Greece has always been able to facilitate the sale of these two products abroad through special clauses in bilateral agreements.

The express purpose of the amendment submitted by the delegation of Greece is to attain higher standards of living, full employment and social progress for our working population, and that is also the purpose of the Organization.

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