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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED
LIMITED B
GATT/CP/88
13 December 1950
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONTRACTING PARTIES

IMPORT OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS INTO THE UNITED STATES

Note by the Executive Secretary

The Secretariat has received the following communication from the Acting Chairman of the United States Delegation:

"On January 1, 1951, imports into the United States of crude petroleum, topped crude petroleum, and fuel oil derived from petroleum, including fuel oil known as gas oil, will become subject to an annual tariff quota equal to 5 per cent of the total quantity of crude petroleum processed in refineries in the continental United States during the preceding calendar year. The rate of duty of 1/4 cent per gallon (10-1/2 cents per barrel of 42 gallons) will apply to imports under the tariff quota, while a rate of 1/2 cent per gallon will apply to imports in excess of the tariff quota. At present a duty of 1/4 cent per gallon applies to all dutiable imports of these products.

"The reason for the change in the tariff treatment of these petroleum products is that the trade agreement between the United States and the United Mexican States will terminate, effective December 31, 1950, and consequently the provisions of the trade agreement between the United States and Venezuela, effective December 16, 1939, become applicable.

"In accordance with the provisions of Article XIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the United States Delegation is consulting with delegations from other countries known by it to have an interest in this matter and is prepared to consult with the delegations of any other countries which believe that they may have an interest.

"It would be appreciated, in view of the shortness of time, if such other delegations could inform the United States Delegation within a week whether they wish to enter into such consultation."