

Contracting Parties

Third Session

Import Restrictions on Items Which Might
be Included in Italian Schedule of Concessions

A difficulty has arisen in connection with certain items, principally of radio electric equipment, upon which certain delegations desire to obtain concessions in the course of negotiations with Italy. These items are subject in Italy to certain measures of import restrictions, and a doubt has arisen whether, in these circumstances, the effects of paragraph 13 of Article XVIII might not be that, if tariff bindings were entered into in respect of these items, the import restrictions would become ineligibile for consideration by the Contracting Parties under Article XVIII.

As it would appear inconvenient to raise for discussion in the Contracting Parties, at this late stage in the Session, the general question of the interpretation of Article XVIII (13) it has been suggested that the matter should be dealt with ad hoc by the inclusion of a paragraph either in the Protocol of Accession or in the Italian Schedule on the following lines :

Without prejudice to the interpretation of paragraph 13 of Article XVIII, the consolidations of import duties on items 362, 413, II98, I200, I202, and I204 of the Italian tariff which are contained in Schedule [Italian Schedule] shall be valid until such time as the Contracting Parties reach a decision under Article XVIII in respect of the application by the Italian Government of certain measures of import restriction to the said items; thereafter the said consolidations shall remain valid subject to the terms of such decision of the Contracting Parties.

It is suggested that this matter be considered in the first instance by the Joint Working Party on Accession at its final meeting on Thursday, 11 August, for report to the Contracting Parties and the Tariff Negotiations Committee.