

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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## ACTION BY GOVERNMENTS RELEVANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF PART IV

### Addendum

The following communication has been received from the Government of Cameroon in connexion with the implementation of Part IV.

In its trade relations with the other contracting parties, Cameroon has always applied the provisions of Part IV of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in respect of the action provided for in paragraph 4 of the said Agreement.

Accordingly, Cameroon has already adopted a number of measures designed to promote trade with other countries, including the following:

- harmonization of its customs tariffs so that the same rate of customs duty is applied to all like goods, whatever their origin;
- establishment of a general trade programme which provides for quotas on only a few products that are manufactured locally;
- conclusion with some African countries of trade agreements providing for preferential customs treatment;
- accession to the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations, the headquarters of which are at Tangiers (Morocco).

As regards action that should be taken by industrialized countries in favour of less-developed contracting parties, in particular the measures mentioned in Article XXXVII:1(a) and 2(b) of the General Agreement, it should be noted that contrary to that Article, certain industrialized countries have recently adopted administrative or trade measures that have the effect of preventing, slowing down or discouraging imports from other countries.

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Cameroon has been adversely affected by these practices, in particular in respect of its exports of bananas, coffee and textile products.

As regards Cameroon's bananas, it should be underlined that certain member States of the European Economic Community (EEC) such as Great Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany, are unwilling to do anything to improve access to their market for this product. On the contrary, they are taking discriminatory action in the form of quotas reserved for certain specified States, premiums paid to certain producers, or additional requirements in regard to packaging, packing or presentation of the product.

Coffee is the subject of a campaign to discourage consumption in the United States of America.

Lastly, as regards textiles, it should be noted that France has adopted certain administrative measures, including the introduction of an import declaration, in order to slow down imports of woven fabrics from South-East Asia. In practice, however, this measure applies without any differentiation as to origin, and the ACP States have been obliged to establish an association to defend their interests in the EEC market.

In addition, the European Economic Community, which has set up a textile regulation mechanism by signing some thirty bilateral restraint agreements with the principal exporting countries, has fixed global ceilings for imports from the ACP countries over the period 1978-1982 of eight so-called particularly sensitive textile products, a limited annual growth rate being specified for these ceilings. The products concerned are the following:

- Cotton yarn
- Other woven fabrics of cotton
- Woven fabrics of synthetic fibres
- Shirts, sports shirts and T-shirts, knitted or crocheted
- Jerseys, pullovers, etc.
- Men's and women's trousers
- Women's shirts
- Shirts of woven fabric.

These are the cases of restrictive trade practices that have been found to exist in recent years in Cameroon's trade with other countries.