

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/135

23 September 1953

Limited Distribution

---

Original: English

## TIME-LIMIT FOR APPLICATION OF PART II OF ARTICLE XX

### Memorandum by the Norwegian Delegation

1. The general exceptions in Article XX:II should have expired on 1 January 1951 according to the original text of the General Agreement. Considering that the conditions due to the war had not improved at the rate and to the extent expected when these provisions were drawn up, the CONTRACTING PARTIES, acting under Article XXV:5(a), by Decision of 30 November 1950, extended the time-limit until 1 January 1952. As these conditions had still not improved sufficiently to permit the general removal of measures maintained under the said provisions, the CONTRACTING PARTIES by a Decision of 22 October 1951 extended the time-limit further until 1 January 1954.
2. Extraordinary conditions, directly or indirectly due to the war, still exist in many countries and require the application of measures permitted under the provisions of Article XX:II. The need for such measures may be different in different countries and there may also be variations with respect to the kind of measures which will be required.
3. As pointed out by several delegates in the plenary meeting on 18 September 1953, the General Agreement needs a complete review. The Norwegian Delegation assumes that such a review may be carried out in the course of the next 12 to 18 months. The review will necessarily involve an examination and restatement of the different rules of exceptions and escape-clauses of the Agreement, including the provisions of the present Article XX:II.
4. In the Working Party which reported to the CONTRACTING PARTIES in November 1950, there were some differences of opinion as to whether the time-limit should be extended to all the provisions of Article XX:II, or only for the provisions of sub-paragraphs a) and b). At the present time it should not be necessary to raise this question. Having regard to the forthcoming review of the General Agreement, it seems to be the most practicable solution to extend the time-limit with respect to all the sub-paragraphs of Article XX:II. The Norwegian Delegation proposes such an extension by a waiver according to Article XXV:5(a), and suggests that the time-limit for application of the exceptions under Article XX:II be extended until 30 June 1955.