

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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## UNITED STATES DUTY ON DRIED FIGS

### Report by the Greek Government

In accordance with the decision adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their Seventh Session, to the effect that the United States and the countries which had lodged complaints against the modification of the United States bound concession on dried figs should report at the Eighth Session, the Greek Delegation submits the following report:

Pursuant to agreement, bilateral negotiations have been held in Washington; they have lasted for the past twelve months, without, however, having reached a satisfactory conclusion. During the first months of consultations, the entire United States constitutional tariff machinery was in operation, to reach the final conclusion of the President, i.e., that present conditions did not yet permit consideration of the lowering of the increased duty to its level under the Agreement. During the months following, the two parties endeavoured to come to an agreement on the possibility of some provisional concessions by the United States to Greece which might serve to restore the balance of mutual concessions, which had been disturbed.

It has, however, not been possible to reach agreement even in that sphere, and negotiations still seem to be continuing.

But the protracted consultation and the fact that twelve months have not sufficed to reach a solution cannot be considered an encouraging phenomenon; Greece cannot accept responsibility for the delay.

While expressing disappointment, the Greek Government do not intend to apply the measures stipulated by the General Agreement, nor to modify their concessions to the United States. They intend to pursue the same course as in the previous year, in the hope that the consultations which have stretched over a whole year may finally reach a satisfactory solution in a cause which they consider most legitimate.