

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/194

26 April 1954

Limited Distribution

Original: English

CONSULTATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XIV:1(g)

Initiation of Consultations in 1954

1. According to the procedure adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their Eighth Session for the initiation of consultations under Article XIV:1(g) in 1954 (paragraph 23 of L/164), any contracting party continuing to take action under the provisions of Article XIV:1(c) or of Annex J should initiate the required consultation in March 1954. Three contracting parties have accordingly advised the Executive Secretary, in the following terms, that they are ready or, if necessary, willing to consult with the CONTRACTING PARTIES:

Australia: Australia is "ready to consult in accordance with Article XIV:1(g) about its continued maintenance of discriminatory import restrictions".

Ceylon: Ceylon is "willing to consult with the CONTRACTING PARTIES, if necessary, in accordance with Article XIV:1(g) as to the continued maintenance of discriminatory import restrictions pursuant to Annex J ... against the dollar area and the continental members of the EPU".

United Kingdom: The United Kingdom is "ready to consult with the CONTRACTING PARTIES in accordance with Article XIV:1(g) as to its continued maintenance of discriminatory import restrictions pursuant to the provisions of Annex J".

2. The following request, received from the Federal Government of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, will be referred to the CONTRACTING PARTIES:

"In terms of document L/132 dated 22nd September, 1953, the joint statement on Central African Federation issued by the United Kingdom and Southern Rhodesia delegations to the Eighth Session, it was explained to the CONTRACTING PARTIES that until the transfer to the Federal Government of jurisdiction over matters covered by the GATT had become fully effective, the Federal Government would not be in a position to determine its policies in relation to tariff matters, and that a reasonable period of time would be required in order to determine such policies.

"I am directed to say that, whilst the Federal Government is in the process of assuming these powers, any consultation initiated now could only refer to a period during which separate import controls were operated independently by the three constituent territories of the Federation, and it is more than probable that by the time such consultation could take place, these independent controls would no longer be in existence. The CONTRACTING PARTIES will, of course, be advised of any unified system of import restrictions or any changes in existing restrictions the imposition of which may be found necessary by the Federal Government.

"In the circumstances it is hoped that the CONTRACTING PARTIES will recognise the anomalous position of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland in this period of transition, and will not press for consultation at the next Session."

3. The Governments of Italy and the Union of South Africa have advised that they no longer resort to the provisions of Article XIV:1(c) and Annex J respectively. Therefore no consultations under Article XIV:1(g) are initiated.

