

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/375

13 July 1955

Limited Distribution

Original: English

AUSTRALIAN TREATMENT OF PRODUCTS OF PAPUA-NEW GUINEA

Request for Waiver

The following communication has been received from the Australian Delegation to the United Nations in Geneva:

"I have been requested by the appropriate authorities in Australia to submit this formal application to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for a waiver under the terms of Article XXV:5(a) of the General Agreement.

"The Australian Government, as part of its policy of developing the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, wishes to adopt a recommendation of the Australian Tariff Board that provision be made in the Tariff for the admission, free of duty, of timber, other than plywood, originating in and exported from the Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

"Under the Decision of 30 October, 1953, the CONTRACTING PARTIES decided, subject to certain conditions, to waive the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 4(b) of Article I to the extent necessary to permit the Government of Australia to grant or continue to accord duty-free treatment to primary products of Papua-New Guinea not then specified in Schedule I to the General Agreement, without regard to the rates of duty applicable to like products of any other contracting party.

"The Australian Government is unable to apply this waiver in order to carry out the desired policy because the Tariff Items involved, namely 291(C), 291(H), 291(I), 291(J), ex 291(L), 291(N) and 293(A), are included in Schedule I of the General Agreement.

"Therefore the Australian Government hereby makes application to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for a waiver, under the terms of Article XXV:5(a) of the General Agreement, to accord duty-free treatment to the Items specified in paragraph 4 above when originating in and exported from the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. It is of course not the intention of the Australian Government to vary the rates of duty on imports under these items from other countries.

"The Australian Government requests that this application be included on the Agenda for the Tenth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. Material supporting this application will be forwarded to the contracting parties as soon as possible."

