

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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BELGIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

Statement by the Belgian Government pursuant to the Decision of 3 December 1955

Under the terms of the Decision of 3 December 1955 granting a waiver to Belgium in connexion with import restrictions on certain agricultural products the Belgian Government was to submit to the CONTRACTING PARTIES more precise and detailed information as soon as practicable after 3 May 1956 on the measures to be developed for the elimination of the restrictions. The following communication, dated 8 August 1956, has been received from the Belgian Government:

"Under the terms of the Decision of 3 December 1955, the Government of Belgium has undertaken to submit to the CONTRACTING PARTIES more precise and detailed information as soon as practicable after 3 May 1956 on the measures to be developed for the elimination of restrictions.

"The CONTRACTING PARTIES have considered that there is a reasonable prospect that the import restrictions on agricultural products will be eliminated over a comparatively short period of time inasmuch as the Belgian Government has entered into a formal agreement with the Netherlands Government which provides for the harmonization of the agricultural policies and of the conditions of production of the two countries and has also established administrative machinery for the development of appropriate measures designed to ensure the elimination of the restrictions.

"The steps initiated within the framework of the policy of harmonization indicate that positive results will not be secured before next autumn.

"In the circumstances, it is not possible at present to submit a programme as provided for in the Decision of 3 December 1955.

"The question will be dealt with in a more detailed manner in the annual report which the Belgian Government has to submit to the CONTRACTING PARTIES before the next session."