

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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## WAIVER TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA ON ARTICLE XV:A

### 1957 Report by the Government of Czechoslovakia under the Decision of 5 March 1955

Dated 14 October 1957

1. During the past year no measures were taken which would have to be communicated to the CONTRACTING PARTIES had Czechoslovakia signed a special exchange agreement.
2. In the foreign exchange policy no changes occurred in the period under review in comparison with the state which was subject of consultation in the course of the Eleventh Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. In matters of foreign exchange Czechoslovakia continues fully to observe principles of the special exchange agreement and its policy is in full accord with the aims of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.
3. As of 1 April 1957 a further administrative simplification of import procedures has taken place. Though this simplification is in principle not of direct importance from the point of view of Czechoslovakia's obligations arising out of the Decision of 5 March 1955 of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, it is described in paragraphs 4 - 6 below for the information of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.
4. By ordinance of the Minister of Foreign Trade of 5 January 1957 the so-called "notification procedure" introduced previously following the abolition in 1948 of licencing procedures for commercial imports and exports was abolished as of 1 April 1957. The CONTRACTING PARTIES were informed about this notification procedure in 1949 in connexion with the preparation of the first report under Article XIV:1(g) on the discrimination application of import restrictions for the protection of balance of payments. The purpose of the notification procedure was primarily to obtain up-to-date information on the fulfilment of the plan of foreign trade. In the course of a general simplification of administrative procedures it has been abolished.
5. Accordingly, except for a written declaration on imports which is at the same time an application for customs clearance (and serves as administrative record and various internal purposes of the corporations) and, in the case of merchandise subject to ad valorem duty, the invoices, importers (i.e. the foreign trade corporations) do not, in principle, submit any other documents. Similarly, in the case of exports, exporters (the foreign trade corporations) submit only written declarations to the customs offices.

6. Under the above-mentioned ordinance of the Minister of Foreign Trade of 5 January 1957 the Czechoslovak foreign trade corporations have thus formally been given general permission to enter into contractual obligations with parties abroad. This can be restricted or cancelled by the Ministry of Foreign Trade only exceptionally for reasons of a general character. Thus, no factual changes have taken place in the state as indicated in document L/427<sup>1</sup>. The foreign trade corporations have been afforded a formal basis for simplification in carrying out commercial transactions.

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<sup>1</sup> 1955 report by the Czechoslovak Government under the waiver Decision of 5 March 1955.