

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/1124
9 December 1959

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
Fifteenth Session

SCHEDULE XXV -- GREECE: RENEGOTIATION OF CONCESSIONS

Decision of 12 November 1959

CONSIDERING

- (a) that the Greek Government is undertaking a general revision of the structure and nomenclature of its customs tariff which it considers necessary for both technical and general economic reasons, that such revision will in some instances involve increases in rates of duty specified in Schedule XXV to the General Agreement, and that the Greek Government considers it would not be possible to adhere strictly to the procedures of Article XXVIII and, in particular, to divulge in advance the full details of the tariff reform, since, under the Greek Constitution, the tariff changes must be put into effect immediately after the revised tariff is submitted to Parliament;
- (b) that the Greek Government for this purpose gave notice at the end of 1957 pursuant to paragraph 5 of Article XXVIII reserving its right to modify Schedule XXV in accordance with the procedures of paragraphs 1 to 3;
- (c) that a partial application of the revised tariff, involving withholding the application of the increased rates on bound items, is technically not practicable in view of the radical changes proposed in the structure and nomenclature of the Greek tariff;

NOTING the assurance of the Greek Government that the tariff increases will not alter the general level of reciprocal and mutually advantageous concessions listed in Schedule XXV;

the CONTRACTING PARTIES, acting pursuant to the provisions of Article XXV:5 of the General Agreement,

DECIDE, in view of the exceptional circumstances, to suspend the application of the provisions of Article II of the General Agreement to the extent necessary to enable Greece to apply the revised tariff immediately after its submission to the Greek Parliament, subject to the following conditions:

1. The Greek Government will, as soon as the revised tariff is put into effect, submit it to the CONTRACTING PARTIES together with the draft new Schedule XXV, indicating separately the items to which modifications or withdrawals pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 3 of Article XXVIII refer and the concessions which it proposes to apply as compensation for such modifications and withdrawals.

2. The Greek Government will promptly thereafter enter into negotiations or consultations with interested contracting parties pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 3 of Article XXVIII.

3. The negotiations or consultations mentioned above shall be completed before the end of the sixteenth session.

4. Pending the entry into force of the results of such negotiations, the other contracting parties will be free to suspend concessions initially negotiated with Greece to the extent that they consider that adequate compensation is not at that time provided by the Greek Government (subject, as regards contracting parties which have a principal supplying interest or a substantial interest in any concession suspended pursuant to this paragraph, to procedures analogous to those provided for in Article XXVIII).

5. Concurrently with the application of the new rates of duty on items which are the subject of concessions in Schedule XXV, the Greek Government will, in accordance with paragraph 1 above, apply the rates of duty offered as compensation for the concessions modified or withdrawn.

6. The negotiations and consultations referred to in paragraph 2 above shall relate to the concessions provisionally offered as compensations for the modifications and withdrawals and to any requests made by interested contracting parties for other or additional compensations with a view to reaching a satisfactory adjustment consistent with the requirements of paragraph 2 of Article XXVIII.

7. In all other respects the negotiations and consultations shall be conducted in conformity with the relevant provisions of Article XXVIII.