

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/1470/Add.7

15 August 1961

Limited Distribution

Original: French

RESIDUAL IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

Notifications by Contracting Parties

Addenda

GREECE

The following notification has been received from the Greek permanent delegation:

"In reply to your airmail GATT/AIR/224 of 10 March 1961, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

"Import restrictions applied by Greece were discussed at great length during the meeting of the Committee on Balance-of-Payment Restrictions in May 1960. Due notice of these restrictions has therefore been given to the CONTRACTING PARTIES and they are not inconsistent with the General Agreement.

"Since that time the following changes have been made:

"The import system, based on global quotas, which applied to wood, coal, sewing machines, sheet-iron, pulp and newsprint, tyres and tubes; as well as certain electrical appliances, was revised effective July 1960. Since that time, pulp, sewing machines and electrical appliances have been freely imported, whereas wood, coal (with the exception of anthracite and coke which are also imported freely), iron, sheet-iron, newsprint, tyres and tubes have been placed under the procedure provided for in List A. (Authorizations of a Special Committee upon individual application.)

"I should like to point out that all requests for imports of iron, sheet-iron and newsprint are granted. The same treatment applies to tyres and tubes on the condition that 10 per cent of the value of such goods is imported from the United Arab Republic. This measure is designed to activate the disposal of a rather sizeable surplus balance in our favour as a result of clearing agreements between Greece and the United Arab Republic.

"All requests to import wood not produced in countries with whom Greece has concluded bilateral trade agreements are fully met. For other kinds of wood produced in countries with whom Greece has bilateral agreements, a ceiling of \$4 million in free currencies was set for the year 1961.

"It is evident therefore that import restrictions have been greatly relaxed, since only a portion of our wood, tyre and coal imports (with the exception of anthracite and coke) is still subject to restriction. This represents the only means available to the Greek Government to influence the carrying out of bilateral agreements.

"Insofar as petroleum products are concerned, ever since 1959 when the oil refinery started operation, only petroleum products not made by the refinery may be imported freely, as well as additional amounts of products supplied by the refinery but not in sufficient quantities to satisfy consumption.

"Regarding crude oil for the refinery, 30 per cent of the needed amount is imported by the State and the remainder by the Company holding the concession."

