

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/2543
19 January 1966

Limited Distribution

Original: English

ACTION BY UNITED STATES UNDER ARTICLE XIX

Stainless Steel Flatware

The following communication has been received from the delegation of the United States.

My Government has asked me to advise you that the White House announced on 7 January the issuance of a Presidential Proclamation liberalizing the 1959 Stainless Steel Flatware Escape Clause action.¹ The 1959 action established an annual tariff quota of 69 million pieces. Within-quota imports continued dutiable at existing trade agreement rates; over-quota imports were made dutiable at rates higher than those originally specified in the Tariff Act of 1930.

The President's action increases the low-rate quantity from 69 to 84 million pieces, makes an average reduction of 50 per cent in the over-quota rates, and is retroactive to 1 November 1965.

The low-rate quantity for the current quota year beginning 1 November 1965 is now filled. The retroactive feature of the Proclamation makes possible during the current quota year the entry of an additional 15 million pieces before higher rates become effective and the new rates are applicable for over-quota imports. An unknown quantity of stainless steel flatware is presently in foreign trade zones and bonded warehouses in the United States and may be entered under the increased tariff quota. The rates applicable to imports in excess of 84 million pieces have been reduced as follows: (1) spoons from 60 to 40 per cent ad valorem; (2) knives and forks with handles not containing nickel and not containing over 10 per cent manganese from 3 cents each plus 67.5 per cent ad valorem to 3 cents each plus 15 per cent; (3) knives and forks containing nickel or over 10 per cent manganese from 3 cents each plus 67.5 per cent ad valorem to 3 cents each plus 20 per cent.

¹L/1076