

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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ITALY - ADMINISTRATIVE AND STATISTICAL FEES

Note by the United States

The following communication, dated 20 November 1969, has been received from the United States Government.

I have been instructed by my authorities to request the following be included on the agenda of the 16 December GATT Council meeting:

Italian Administrative and Statistical Fees - complaint by the United States concerning discriminatory application by the Government of Italy in contravention of Articles II:1(b) and VIII:1(a).

By a Directive dated 22 December 1967 the Commission of the European Communities required the Government of Italy to eliminate administrative fees in intra-Community trade before 1 July 1968, because it found the fee was equivalent to an import duty and no particular service was rendered in return for the fee. The Government of Italy in due course eliminated the fees but for intra-Community trade only.

The United States has made numerous bilateral approaches to the Italian Government over the past two years urging termination of these fees which the United States considers inconsistent with the above-mentioned GATT Articles. These approaches have unfortunately not produced any positive results. The United States considers this matter should be discussed at an early meeting of the GATT Council.