

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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GREEK TARIFF PREFERENCES

Communication from the United States

The following communication, dated 13 April 1970, has been received from the Mission of the United States with the request that the matter be included on the agenda of the forthcoming meeting of the Council.

On 13 December 1969 the Government of Greece signed a Special Protocol with the Government of the USSR which by its Article I reduces by 50 per cent the Greek external tariff rates of 31 October 1962 for specified quantities of certain commodities of USSR production without making these tariff reductions applicable to all GATT contracting parties as provided for in Article I:1 of the GATT.

The United States has made bilateral approaches to the Government of Greece urging termination of the preferential tariff quotas provided for in the Greek/Soviet Special Protocol which the United States considers inconsistent with GATT Article I, or their extension to all contracting parties. 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.