

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/3460

12 November 1970

Limited Distribution

Original: French

## GREEK IMPORT RESTRICTIONS UNDER ARTICLE XVIII:C<sup>1</sup>

### Electric Batteries

1. The following communication, embodying a notification under paragraph 14 of Article XVIII, has been received from the Greek delegation.
2. Since the proposed measure relates to an item which is the subject of a concession included in the Greek Schedule, the Government of Greece is prepared to enter into consultations, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 18 of the Article, with the contracting party with which the concession in question was initially negotiated, as well as with any other contracting parties having a substantial interest therein.
3. In accordance with the established practice any contracting party considering itself to have a substantial interest in the item is requested to indicate within thirty days of this notification its interest to the Greek authorities in Athens. Unless there is objection on the part of Greece the contracting party in question will be deemed to have been determined by the CONTRACTING PARTIES to have a substantial interest for the purposes of paragraph 18 of Article XVIII.

In accordance with the provisions of Article XVIII of the General Agreement and more particularly paragraph 4(a) and Section C (paragraphs 14 and 18) of that Article, I have the honour, on instructions from my Government, to inform you that it has decided to include electric batteries (tariff item 85.03) in list A of the products which can be imported only under cover of a licence issued by a special committee (document BOP/111, page 3 and page 1 of the annex).

As the manufacture of electric batteries in Greece is part of a branch of the country's economy which was already operating, the Greek Government considered that State aid was essential for it and that there was no other step which could be taken

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<sup>1</sup>It might be noted that Greece has in the past invoked the provisions of Section A of Article XVIII and currently maintains import restrictions under Section B of that Article. It has thus been regarded as a contracting party falling within the scope of paragraph 4(a) of Article XVIII.

that would have been compatible with the provisions of the General Agreement other than those of Section C of Article XVIII.

It should further be pointed out that since tariff item 85.03 concerns a product which was the subject of a concession included in the corresponding schedule annexed to the General Agreement, the Greek Government is prepared to enter into consultations with any contracting party with which the concession in question was initially negotiated, as was the case for France, and with any other contracting party recognized as having a substantial interest therein, as in the case of the United Kingdom.