

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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UNITED STATES TARIFF COMMISSION - INVESTIGATIONS

Non-Rubber Footwear

The following communication, dated 2 February 1971, has been received from the permanent mission of the United States.

On 15 January 1971, the United States Tariff Commission published its report in response to the President's request to determine whether increased imports resulting in major part from trade agreement concessions are causing or threatening to cause serious injury to the United States industry producing men's and women's non-rubber footwear. The Commissioners divided evenly (2-2) on this issue. Work and athletic footwear and slippers were excluded from their findings.

Under the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, the President may in case of a tied vote consider the finding of either group as the finding of the Commission. If he accepts the affirmative finding, he may:

- (a) take no action;
- (b) proclaim an increase of duty or such other import restrictions as he determines necessary to prevent or remedy serious injury to the domestic industry;
- (c) provide that firms and groups of workers may apply to the Departments of Commerce and Labor, respectively, for certifications of eligibility to apply for adjustment assistance;
- (d) negotiate international agreements with foreign countries to limit the export of competitive products to the United States in lieu of (b) above.

Presidential action, if any, based on the report of the Tariff Commission must be taken within sixty days from the receipt of the Commission's findings.

In accordance with the requirements of Article XIX:2 of the General Agreement, we would appreciate your circulating the contents of this letter to the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The United States Government has already initiated bilateral consultations on the Commission's findings with interested contracting parties having a substantial interest as exporters of the products concerned.

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