

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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AUSTRALIA - ARTICLE XIX NOTIFICATION

Action in Respect of Sheets and Plates of Iron or Steel

The following communication dated 10 March 1975 has been received from the Government of Australia.

The Australian Government wishes to advise the contracting parties that it has decided, in accordance with Article XIX of the GATT, to restrict temporarily by means of global quotas the importation of hot-rolled sheets and plates of iron or steel not exceeding 3.2 mm. in thickness and cold-rolled sheets and plates of iron or steel of a kind falling within tariff sub-item 73.13.1.

Pending further review later this year, the restrictions are intended to limit imports on and from 1 January 1975 to an annual level equivalent to 50 per cent of average annual imports cleared for home consumption in 1972 and 1973.

The decision to introduce these restrictions was taken in the light of a report by the temporary Assistance Authority within the Australian Industries Assistance Commission. Following a public inquiry at which evidence was presented by all interested parties, the Authority recommended that urgent action be taken as notified above. The Government has accepted the Authority's view that it is not necessary for temporary restrictions to be applied to the importation of galvanized sheets and plates of iron or steel.

The import restrictions in question are temporary measures to remedy serious injury to the domestic industry caused by a high level of imports at a time when there has been a down-turn in domestic demand. Total imports of the products in question have been as follows:

<u>1972</u> (tons)	<u>1973</u> (tons)	<u>1974</u> (tons)
102,316	173,512	256,128

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The Industries Assistance Commission has been asked to report on the need, if any, for the continuation of these import restrictions in the longer term.

The Australian Government is ready to enter into Article XIX consultations with any contracting party having a substantial interest in the export to Australia of the items notified above.