

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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AUSTRALIA - ARTICLE XIX NOTIFICATION

Action in Respect of Ophthalmic Frames, Sunglass Frames and Sunglasses

The following communication dated 26 March 1975 has been received from the Permanent Mission of Australia.

The Australian Government wishes to advise the CONTRACTING PARTIES that it has decided, in accordance with the provisions of Article XIX of the GATT, to introduce temporary quantitative import restrictions on ophthalmic frames, sunglass frames and sunglasses.

These restrictions are being introduced following a public inquiry and report by the Australian Temporary Assistance Authority. The report showed that imports of spectacle frames increased by 70 per cent between 1972/73 and 1973/74 rising from 1.159 million in 1972/73 to 1.971 million in 1973/74 and that this high rate of imports was continuing during the first six months of 1974/75. With regard to sunglasses, the report showed that the imports in the first six months of 1974/75 were almost as high as in the whole of 1973/74.

The restrictions are intended to limit imports to the following levels based on imports during 1973/74:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| (A) For ophthalmic frames and sunglass frames | 75 per cent |
| (B) For sunglasses | 85 per cent |

The restrictions will apply from 1 March 1975. Quotas will be allocated to importers without restriction as to source of supply. Each importer will be granted an import licence for a six-months' period equal to no more than half his established quota.

The temporary restrictions will apply pending a report by the Australian Industries Assistance Commission on the subject of long-term assistance to the industry.

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

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