

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/4176

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ANGLO-IRISH FREE-TRADE AREA AGREEMENT

Sixth Biennial Report

1. This Report is submitted in accordance with undertakings by the two Governments to report regularly to the CONTRACTING PARTIES on the development of the Free-Trade Area. The Fifth Report (document L/3849) was considered by the Council on 29 May 1973, when the Council took note of the Report.
2. The agricultural trade of both countries is now regulated by the provisions of the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Communities.
3. The movement towards the establishment of a Free-Trade Area between the two countries has progressed in accordance with the terms of the Agreement. On 1 July 1973 and 1 July 1974, the Irish side made the eighth and ninth annual cuts in the protective duties applicable to imports from the United Kingdom other than those not in the Free-Trade Sector (Annex A to the Agreement) and subject to the arrangements agreed for certain products following a review as provided for in Article 1(5) of the Agreement. This review is dealt with in the Fifth Report. The ninth reduction effected the elimination, with effect from 1 July 1974, of protective duties applicable to a wide range of imports from Northern Ireland. In addition the sixth and seventh reductions were made in the effective level of the protective duties on a number of United Kingdom goods which are or were subject to quota restrictions (paragraph 3(b) of Article 1 and Annex B to the Agreement refer).
4. On 1 July 1973, and 1 July 1974, the Irish side made the eighth and ninth 10 per cent reductions in protective elements in certain fiscal charges in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 Article IV of the Agreement.
5. Consultations under Article 11(3) resulted in the establishment of new rules of origin to apply from 1 January 1974, to Irish goods then qualifying under Commonwealth Preference conditions when consigned to the United Kingdom. An amendment to paragraph 9 of Part IV of Annex C was also agreed to reflect the relationship that now exists between the original EFTA countries and the European Communities.

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The CONTRACTING PARTIES, acting pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 5 of Article XXV of the General Agreement,

Decide to waive until 30 June 1976 the application of the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article II of the General Agreement to the extent necessary to enable the Government of India to apply the auxiliary duty of customs, as notified in document L/4163, on items included in Schedule XII.