

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON  
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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ARTICLE XIX - ACTION BY THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

Portable Monochrome Television Sets from the Republic of Korea

The following communication, dated 6 December, has been received from the Permanent Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities.

The European Economic Community notifies to Contracting Parties that import restrictions were established during the second half of 1977 on imports of certain television sets from the Republic of Korea imported into the United Kingdom. The products in question are classified under the heading ex 85.15 and cover portable black and white television receivers (defined in relation to the size of the cathode-ray tubes which are incorporated). Annual quotas have been fixed at the level of 35,000 sets per year during 1977 and 1978.

These measures were introduced in view of the clear threat of serious injury which had been found to exist following bilateral consultations which had taken place with the Korean authorities. Apart from imports from South Korea, the British market for television sets of this type was supplied by imports from various sources (principally from Japan and Singapore) which are expected to continue in 1977 at a level similar to that in recent years. Nevertheless, total imports in 1977 are expected to occupy a share of the market - at least 50 per cent - which would in any case create serious difficulties for the British industry.

Against this background it was found that Korean exporters were planning to increase their imports into the United Kingdom in 1977 from the modest levels of previous years (negligible in 1975, 2,143 sets in 1976) to over 300,000 sets in 1977, a level which would represent over 37 per cent of the estimated United Kingdom market for imports from Korea alone. Such a rate of growth of imports from Korea was considered to be excessive and to threaten serious injury to domestic producers. It would also cause severe market disruption and adversely affect other exporting countries in the British market.

The European Economic Community is ready to enter into consultations within the terms of Article XIX:2 with any Contracting Party having a substantial interest in the measures concerned.

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