

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

W.7/43

29 October 1952

Special Distribution

PANEL ON COMPLAINTS

Increase of import duties on products specified in Schedule XXV (Greece)

Draft Report

1. The Panel investigated, with the assistance of the Delegations of the United Kingdom and of Greece, the consistency of Decision No. 766 taken by the Greek Cabinet on 10 July 1952, with the obligations of the Greek Government under the General Agreement.
2. When the Greek Government conducted tariff negotiations at Annecy and Torquay within the framework of the General Agreement, it agreed to bind the coefficients applied before 1939 for the conversion of metallic drachmae rates of customs duty into paper drachmae notes on items included in Schedule XXV and those coefficients were specified in a note to that Schedule. The Decision of 10 July increased those coefficients on a number of products to levels in excess of those specified in the Greek Schedule. The new levels of these coefficients, as well as the levels at which they were bound in Schedule XXV, are listed in the Annex to this Report.
3. The United Kingdom Government, as well as other contracting parties interested, maintained that this Decision constitutes an infringement of the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article II of the General Agreement. The Greek Government agreed that this emergency measure taken in July last is not consistent with its obligations under the General Agreement.
4. The Greek Government indicated that the measure had been taken as an emergency measure to meet acute financial difficulties, and undertook to withdraw the Decision and to revert before 1 July 1953 to the levels bound under the General Agreement. The United Kingdom Delegation, as well as the delegations of other contracting parties affected, stated that they recognized that the Greek Government had to encounter serious difficulties and that their Governments would be prepared to consider that the case would be settled to their satisfaction if the coefficients applied to the products described in Schedule XXV were brought down to the agreed levels specified in the Schedule before the date suggested by the Greek Delegation.
5. In this connection, the Panel recommends that the CONTRACTING PARTIES take note of the undertaking given on behalf of the Greek Government to remove the measure within the time-limit suggested and to ask that Government to report on the measures taken to implement this undertaking.

6. Accordingly, the Panel submits the following draft resolution to the CONTRACTING PARTIES for consideration and approval:

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE COMPLAINT OF
THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT CONCERNING
THE INCREASE OF IMPORT DUTIES IN GREECE

HAVING INVESTIGATED the complaint submitted by the Government of the United Kingdom regarding the increase in coefficients for currency conversion introduced by Decision No. 766 taken by the Greek Government on 10 July 1952,

HAVING CONCLUDED, with the concurrence of all parties concerned, that the measure thus taken by the Greek Government was inconsistent with the obligations of that Government under paragraph 1 of Article II of the General Agreement,

THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

TAKE NOTE of the undertaking by the Greek Government to remove, before 1 July 1953, the recent changes in the pre-war coefficients insofar as they apply to products described in Schedule XXV to the General Agreement and to re-establish the levels specified in the said schedule,

AND INVITE the Greek Government to report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES on the measures taken to implement that undertaking.

A N N E X

COMMODITIES INCLUDED IN SCHEDULE XKV AND
AFFECTED BY THE INCREASE IN THE PRE-WAR
COEFFICIENTS

Coefficients contained
in Schedules

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|
| <u>Coefficient 5</u> | 3(b) -4 and 5 | Raised to 40 |
| <u>Coefficient 15</u> | 45(e) | " " 30 |
| | 46(a) and (b) | " " 30 |
| | 177(a) and (b) | " " 30 |
| <u>Coefficient 20</u> | 45(c)-1, -2, -3 | " " 30 |
| | 159(a)-6, and ex 15 | " " 30 |
| | 159(b)-1, 2, 5, 6 and 6bis | " " 30 |
| | 159(c)-3, ex 7, 7bis and 8 | " " 30 |
| | 159(d) ex 1 (nitrate of ammonia and nitrate of potash) | " " 30 |
| | 159(e)-2 and 7 | " " 30 |
| | 159(f)-10 and 11 | " " 30 |
| | 159(g)-5, 8, 11, ex 12, 13, ex 16 (sulphurous anhydrite liqui- fied and anhydrite of ammonia), 16bis, ex 19 | " " 30 |
| | 167(g)bis | " " 40 |
| | 177(d), (e), (f) | " " 30 |
| | 178(b), 1, 2, | " " 30 |
| | 178(a), (c)bis | " " 30 |
| | 178(d), 1, 2 and 3 | " " 30 |
| <u>Coefficient 22</u> | 62(a), (b), (c) and (d) | " " 40 |
| | 63(a), -1 and -2 | " " 40 |
| | 63(b), (b)bis | " " 40 |
| | 63(c) | " " 40 |
| <u>Coefficient 25</u> | 48(b)2 | " " 30 |
| | 51(d) | " " 40 |
| | 51(f)1, 2 and 3 | " " 40 |
| | 51(g) | " " 40 |

Coefficient 25 (Cont.)

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 51(j)bis | Raised to 40 |
| 64(a)1 and 2 | " " 40 |
| 64(c) | " " 40 |
| 65c-1 and 2 | " " 40 |
| 65(d) ex 1 | " " 40 |
| 71(a) 1, 2 and 3 | " " 40 |
| 71(c)-1, 2 and 3 | " " 40 |
| 75(a), (b) and (c) | " " 40 |
| 76 ex (c) | " " 40 |
| 76(e) -1, 2 and 3 | " " 40 |
| 76(f) -1 and 2 | " " 40 |
| 76(g) 1, 2 and 3 | " " 40 |
| 76(i) | " " 40 |
| 77(e) | " " 40 |
| 160(c) - 3, 4 and 9 | " " 40 |
| 160(d) -1, 2, 3, 3bis and 4 | " " 40 |
| 168(d) 2 | " " 40 |
| 168(f) 2 | " " 40 |
| 171(a), (b) and (c) | " " 80 |
| 178(b)(3) | " " 30 |
| <u>Coefficient 30</u> 34(a) | " " 40 |
| 60(d) | " " 40 |
| 134(c)-2 | " " 40 |
| 169(a) | " " 40 |
| <u>Coefficient 36</u> 18(a) -1 | " " 40 |
| 134 ex(a), ex(b) | " " 40 |
| 134(g) -1, 2, 3 and 4 | " " 40 |
| 160(e) -7 | " " 40 |
| 176(b) | " " 40 |