

Contracting Parties  
Third Session

Recapitulation of Measures in force in Syria and Lebanon  
providing for the prohibition or restriction of  
Imports in virtue of Article XVIII, Paragraph 11.

Note by the Delegations of Lebanon and Syria.

The non-discriminatory prohibitions and restrictions in force in Syria and Lebanon are based on the three categories of measures as recapitulated hereunder:

(1) Firstly, Article 41 of the Customs Code provides that:

"prohibitions relating to the import and export of certain commodities shall be determined by decree of the 'Conseil Supérieur des Intérêts Communs.'"

(2) On 3 December 1939 Décrets Nos. 331, 336 and 338 - 342/L.R. established a system of foreign trade control making all imports subject to special permits in the form of licences.

These texts made no express reference to the reason for their adoption. In applying them the competent authorities of both countries examined applications for licences in the light of the necessity either to supply the needs of the population or to protect the development of certain categories of national products, whether agricultural or industrial.

The 1939 Decrees were consolidated on 26 June 1944 by similar ordinances issued by the Lebanese and Syrian Governments respectively.

On the basis of this system, the Ministers of National Economy draw up an annual quota programme according to requirements for the development of the production of the items contained in the notified list.

(3) Laws, decrees, ordinances and circulars have been promulgated in both Syria and Lebanon in order to strengthen protective measures to assist the development of the industrial and agricultural products specified. The following are the main ones of which copies are available at Annecy:

A. Fruits.

In Lebanon fruits are controlled by Decrees 2298 and 3784 of 19 January 1946 and 15 March 1947 respectively.

In Syria fruit imports are controlled by Instructions No.5430 of 24 October 1946.

As was stated in the "remarks" column of the notified list, these regulations provide either for prohibition of imports or for quotas according to the type of product or the seasonal production position, or in other words according to the need for development and consumer requirements.

B. Cereals.

1. Wheat, barley and their derivatives.

Wheat, barley and their derivatives were controlled in Syria by the Monopoly Law promulgated in 1942 and renewed annually until the end of March 1949. On the latter date the Monopoly Administration was abolished, but the protective measures are still in force.

Under the monopoly system, in the event of a poor harvest imports were controlled by the Monopoly Administration by means of import licences. In the event of a surplus crop, exports were effected either through the Administration or by private individuals. In both cases the licence system was therefore in force. Under the present system the protective measures are maintained, but their character is no more restrictive than under the monopoly system.

2. Other Cereals (Rye, Rice, Oats, Maize, etc).

Imports and exports are subject to the licence system. The import quota is fixed by the annual import programme which specifies an overall quantity without mentioning the source of supplies.