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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON  
TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Multilateral Trade Negotiations

GROUP 3(e) - BASIC DOCUMENTATION

Inventory of Various Non-Tariff Barriers

Addendum

ARGENTINA

Customs and Administrative Procedures

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measure:	Countries indicating an interest:
General	Argentina	Canada

(a) Description:

Heavy penalties are imposed for documentation errors.

(b) Comments by other countries:

It seemed that any error was treated as a false declaration and was subject to penalties, and the question was asked whether there was any procedure for judging a documentation error.

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

Referring to the answer made in the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products, the Argentine delegate indicated that only false declarations were penalized, i.e. declarations leading to fiscal reductions or producing errors concerning the product being imported. Simple mistakes which could not modify the enforcing regulation or reduce the fiscal revenue by more than a certain amount were not penalized. The criterion used was a certain loss of revenue and the infraction of provisions concerning imports; the penalty depending on the nature and the extent of the error and on its effects on fiscal revenue.

See item No. 151 of the Inventory of Non-Tariff Measures (MTN/3E/2).

Prior Deposits

Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measure:	Countries indicating an interest:
A range of agricultural products	Argentina	Canada European Communities

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(a) Description:

A prior deposit of 40 per cent c.& f. held without interest for 180 days is required before customs clearance can be obtained.

(b) Comments by other countries:

(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures:

The measure had been introduced before Argentina's accession to GATT and had been notified to the Working Party dealing with Argentina's accession. Argentina had declared her intention to gradually get rid of this measure in so far as the economic situation might allow it and, in fact, the number of products to which the system applies has been reduced (reference was made to various circulars of the Central Bank, especially No. 371, May 1969). This measure has been approved by the International Monetary Fund under Article VIII.

See item 631 of the Inventory of Non-Tariff Measures (MTN/3B/5).