

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED
LIMITED C
GATT/CP/144
19 February 1952

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: FRENCH

CONTRACTING PARTIES

MODIFICATION IN FRENCH IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

Communication from the French Government¹

"The French Government has been obliged to make certain modifications in the existing system of quantitative restrictions affecting imports into France. Consequently, and in conformity with the recommendation of the Intersessional Committee of the Contracting Parties at its meetings on 14 and 15 January 1952, I have the honour to transmit herewith a note which you will no doubt wish to bring to the attention of the Contracting Parties.

"I expect shortly to be able to supply supplementary information regarding the method of application of the decision reached by the French Government."

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Note on the Temporary Suspension of
Liberalization Measures by France

In view of the fact that the French deficit with the European Payments Union has been increasing at a rate and in circumstances which, taking account of the state of monetary resources of the country, appears dangerous for the equilibrium of the French economy, the French Government has considered it necessary to suspend the application of the trade liberalization measures which they had undertaken within the framework of O.E.E.C.

By a notice to importers published in the "Journal Officiel of the French Republic" of 4 February 1952 (page 1515 et seq.) licensing requirements have been re-established for imports from O.E.E.C. countries.

An exception has been made, however, for a series of products which are listed in an annex to the notice. These products, mainly raw materials and representing more than 40% of French trade on the basis of the trade returns for 1948, will continue to be imported freely.

The French Government wishes to stress the fact that the measures which they have had to take are measures of suspension and not of abrogation, and are considered as of a temporary nature. Furthermore, for the items where liberalization has been suspended, global quotas will be established to the maximum extent permitted by the account position in the E.P.U.

¹Dated 13 February 1952.

