

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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General Distribution

THE CUSTOMS TARIFF OF JAPAN

Levy of Additional Customs Duties on Products from Countries which do not grant m.f.n. Treatment to Japan

The following Note, dated 1 June, has been received from the Japanese Government.

"A legislation amending the Customs Tariff Law passed the Diet on 29 March 1954 and is expected to come into force within a few months. The purpose of the amendment is, inter alia, to introduce the dual tariff system in place of the present single tariff system. The article providing for the dual tariff system reads as follows:

'Any product imported from a country, which does not accord to the Japanese products the benefit of most-favoured-nation treatment with respect to customs duties, may be designated by Cabinet Order for the imposition of a customs duty not exceeding an amount equivalent to the value of such product in addition to the customs duty applicable according to the Import Tariff annexed to this Law.'

"The Japanese Government has so far been unilaterally granting most-favoured-nation treatment, notwithstanding provisions of Article 12 of the Treaty of Peace with Allied Powers, under which the Japanese Government has undertaken to grant most-favoured-nation treatment with respect to trade on a reciprocal basis. With enactment of the present Amendment, the Japanese Government is in a position to levy additional customs duties upon certain products coming from a country which does not accord to Japanese products most-favoured-nation treatment. Products subject to the additional duties and the rates applicable thereto will be designated by a Cabinet Order. The Import Tariff presently in force is, without any modification, annexed to the Customs Tariff Law, as amended.

"It is to be added that the dual tariff system will not be applied to the products imported from the countries granting, either de facto or de jure, most-favoured-nation treatment to Japan."