

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

ACTION

RESTRICTED

L/71

21 January 1953

Limited Distribution

NATIONALITY OF IMPORTED GOODS

Request for Information

1. At their Seventh Session in October 1952, the CONTRACTING PARTIES considered a proposal of the International Chamber of Commerce that they should adopt a common definition for determining the nationality of imported goods. They decided that, before reaching any conclusion upon this proposal, it would be necessary to obtain more detailed knowledge of the principles underlying national legislation and of the implementation of these principles. It was thought that if each contracting party would furnish a statement of its requirements in this connection it might be possible for the CONTRACTING PARTIES to attempt to elicit common principles and to draw up a satisfactory common definition.

2. Accordingly, contracting parties are asked to submit, not later than 30 April 1953, a statement of their present principles and practices in determining the nationality of imported goods, accompanied by copies of relevant laws and regulations, and, if possible, explanations or notes on the enforcement of these laws and regulations.

3. The statements submitted by contracting parties will be used by the secretariat in making a survey of present legislation in various countries. The secretariat's survey is to be drawn up on the lines indicated overleaf and, therefore, it would be appreciated if contracting parties would furnish their statements in a corresponding form.

REPORT OF THE NATIONALITY OF IMPORTED GOODS

1. Purposes for which origin is required to be established in various countries at present, e.g.
 - (a) Admission at differential rates of duty;
 - (b) Admission under quantitative restrictions;
 - (c) Trade statistics;
 - (d) Merchandise marks;
 - (e) Other reasons.

2. Definition of origin:
 - (a) Natural produce;
 - (b) Goods manufactured in one country from national raw materials;
 - (c) Goods manufactured in one country from imported raw materials;
 - (d) Goods manufactured in more than one country.

3. Treatment of goods which have passed through one or more countries on the way to the country of importation as regards:
 - (a) Admission at differential rates of duty;
 - (b) Admission under quantitative restrictions;
 - (c) Trade statistics;
 - (d) Merchandise marks;
 - (e) Other reasons.

4. Proof of origin:
 - (a) Form of certificates or other proof;
 - (b) Issuance of certificates;
 - (c) Verification of facts by customs authorities of the importing country.

5. Proposals for international action.

