

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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MAINTENANCE OF QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

Request by the Government of Luxemburg

The following communication, dated 7 May, has been received from the Luxemburg Government and will appear on the Agenda for the meeting of the Intersessional Committee tentatively scheduled for 16 June 1955. It is suggested that the Committee should consider this request in the capacity of a working party of the CONTRACTING PARTIES and that if necessary a special session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES should be convened at the earliest practicable date to consider any recommendation which the Committee may decide to submit to them.

"In October 1951, the Belgium-Luxemburg Economic Union eliminated all exchange import restrictions.

"However, Luxemburg has always had to maintain certain quantitative restrictions to protect its agriculture which is in a very special position within the economic, social and political structure of the country and which suffers from continuing handicaps as far as conditions of production are concerned.

"The present system under which the Luxemburg agriculture operates within the frame-work of the Belgium-Luxemburg Economic Union and of Benelux permits the Luxemburg Government to impose independent regulations relating to imports of agricultural products from partner countries.

"As the delegate for Luxembourg indicated at the Ninth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, Luxemburg is not in a position to give up certain quantitative restrictions in the field of agriculture.

"The Luxemburg Government, therefore is applying under Article XXV of the General Agreement for a waiver from the provisions of Article XI of the Agreement.

"The Luxemburg Government would wish its application to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Intersessional Committee so that a solution

may be reached before the opening of the Tenth Session of the **CONTRACTING PARTIES**. The Government of Luxemburg will in fact need to know what fate its application meets with before it can sign the Protocols amending the General Agreement and the Agreement on the Organization for Trade Co-operation.

"The Luxemburg Government will supply as promptly as possible, but not later than 1 June, details of the restrictions maintained and justifications therefor."

