

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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UNITED STATES - AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ACT

Butter Oil, Butter Substitutes - Tariff Commission Investigation

The following communication has been received from the Government of the United States for the information of contracting parties:

"On 17 November 1956 the President directed the United States Tariff Commission to make an immediate investigation into the effects of imports of butter oil and butter substitutes on the Department of Agriculture's price-support programme for milk and butterfat, and on the amount of products processed in the United States from domestic milk and butterfat.

"The President's action was taken in response to a recommendation from the Secretary of Agriculture. The Tariff Commission's investigation, which will be made pursuant to Section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, as amended, will relate specifically to butter oil and butter substitutes containing 45 per cent or more of butterfat and which are dutiable under Paragraph 709 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended.

"The Tariff Commission instituted the investigation on 20 November and issued a public notice stating that a public hearing would be held on 15 January 1957, to afford all interested parties an opportunity to present their views. If, on the basis of the investigation and report of the Tariff Commission, the President finds that imports of these products are practically certain to be imported under such conditions and in such quantities as to render or tend to render ineffective or materially interfere with the price-support programme for milk and butterfat, he may impose fees not exceeding 50 per cent ad valorem or quantitative limitations not proportionately less than 50 per cent of the quantity entered during a representative period to remedy the situation.

"In transmitting this information reference is made to the Decision of 5 March 1955 of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade granting a waiver to the United States in connection with import restrictions imposed under Section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933, as amended."

