

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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ARTICLE XIX - ACTION BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Suspension of General Licence for Imports of Hard Coal and Hard Coal Products

The following communication, dated 9 September 1958, has been received from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany:

"I have the honour to inform you that the Federal Ministry for Economics, invoking Article XIX of GATT, has repealed the general licence for imports of hard coal and hard coal products from countries outside the European Coal and Steel Community with effect from 4 September 1958.

"This action became necessary after the permanently growing dumps of the German coal mining industry had attained a record level of more than 10 million tons, exceeding that recorded in the years of the crisis about 1932, in spite of all the efforts made by the Federal Government to promote sales, while the extensive import obligations contracted under the general licence system, which amount at present to 40.8 million tons in respect of the United States of America only, constitute a serious threat to the German coal economy. It was necessary to subject the conclusion of further import contracts to individual licensing with immediate effect, in order to counteract a development which cannot but result in reduced operation and closing-down of mines, in the dismissal of workers and their seeking jobs in other sectors of employment, including the social tensions involved. Any import contracts concluded so far under the general licence which have not yet been fulfilled may be carried through.

"Consultations under Article XIX of GATT have been initiated at Bonn with the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Norway.

"In the years 1956 and 1957 the following quantities of hard coal and hard coal products were imported into the Federal Republic from countries outside the European Coal and Steel Community:

- in thousands of tons -

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>
<u>Total</u>	14,261	17,396
United States of America	11,736	15,921
United Kingdom	1,325	706
Norway	100	120.