

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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SCHEDULE XXII - AUSTRIA

Porcelain - Action under Article XIX

The following communication has been received from the Austrian Government:

"Following an excessive increase in imports of porcelain under Item No. 69.11.A of the Austrian Customs Tariff (white or plain porcelain, with or without ornamental borders or other designs, Nos. 362(b)1 and 362(b)2 of the old Customs Tariff), the Austrian Government have found it necessary to withdraw, for a period not to exceed two years, the rates applicable to these products, i.e. sch. 420 and sch. 245 respectively, and temporarily to apply to such products the general tariff rate of sch. 600. Such action is to be taken under Article XIX, paragraph 1, (a) of the General Agreement, which allows a contracting party to suspend in whole or in part a tariff concession when a product is being imported into its territory in such quantities and under such conditions as to cause real injury to domestic producers.

"The annexed statistics are being submitted in support of the above-mentioned action to show that, as the result of unforeseen developments and of the effect of the tariff concessions, imports of porcelainware into Austria increased from about sch. 11 million in 1951 to about 49 million in 1957. As a result the situation of Austrian producers of chinaware, whose output only supplies a part of total domestic consumption, has become extremely difficult, and may force them to dismiss hundreds of workers.

"The results of important steps, at present being undertaken with Government support in order to rationalize the industry, will help to make it possible for Austrian producers to sell at competitive prices within the near future, and thus recover their position on the domestic market. The suspension of the present tariffs and the temporary application of the general tariff rates should also help towards this recovery. At the expiry of the period of suspension the tariff concessions will be fully reinstated. The Austrian Government is prepared, under the provisions of Article XIX, paragraph 2, to come to an understanding concerning the proposed measures with the contracting parties which are principally interested, and to enter into consultations with them immediately, preferably in Geneva."

AUSTRIAN IMPORTS OF PORCELAIN

(Austrian statistics No. 752)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Quantity in kilogrammes</u>	<u>Value in Austrian schillings</u>
1951	769,600	11,303,000
1952	823,900	14,459,000
1953	1,037,800	19,269,000
1954	1,464,500	28,069,000
1955	2,251,800	42,864,000
1956	2,270,800	46,626,000
1957	2,444,200	48,873,000

