

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/1204

24 May 1960

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CONTRACTING PARTIES  
Sixteenth Session

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## AUSTRALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

### Statement by the Leader of the Australian Delegation

The following communication, dated 24 May 1960, has been addressed to the Executive Secretary for the information of the contracting parties:

"In Press Release GATT/486 dated 11 March 1960 the CONTRACTING PARTIES were informed of the details of further very substantial relaxations of Australia's import restrictions resulting from a Government decision to move to a position in which, with few exceptions, imports will be completely free from quantitative restrictions. The area of complete freedom from restriction is now over 90 per cent of value of imports.

"Ever since the overall import restrictions were imposed in 1952, it has been the declared policy of the Australian Government to remove them as soon as the balance of payments permitted and over the last few years restrictions have been relaxed in successive steps.

"Australia is scheduled to consult with the CONTRACTING PARTIES next October on its balance-of-payments import restrictions. It is expected that before then CONTRACTING PARTIES will be informed that Australia is no longer applying restrictions under Article XIII of GATT to safeguard its balance of payments. We would intend to follow this at the seventeenth session by a complete statement to the CONTRACTING PARTIES on all then remaining import restrictions and on our policy and procedural proposals in relation to them. We look forward to the opportunity of discussing with the GATT possible alternative ways of handling any restrictions which may remain at that time.

"Since severe import restrictions have operated over a number of years we can expect to have in October a certain number of restrictions to cover some of our more difficult residual problems. However, it is our intention to make specific proposals regarding them. Moreover it is our hope that all our proposals will be consistent with a policy of fully moving from Article XIII and of removing all remaining import restrictions which are not explicitly covered by appropriate Articles of GATT."