

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/1612

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Limited Distribution

CONTRACTING PARTIES

Nineteenth Session

SCHEDULE I AUSTRALIA - ACTION UNDER ARTICLE XIX ON WOOLLEN GOODS

Contracting parties were informed on 31 May 1961 (L/1497) that the Australian Government had taken action under the procedures of Article XIX with respect to tariff concessions on certain specified woollen goods bound in Part I of Schedule I.

The Italian Government requested consultations with the Australian Government and the consultations were initiated. It proved impossible, however, to conclude the negotiations within the time-limit provided in paragraph 3(a) of Article XIX, within which affected countries might withdraw substantially equivalent obligations or concessions from Australia, and the Italian Government requested an extension of the time-limit until 31 October 1961. This request was granted by the Decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES of 31 August 1961 (L/1546).

On 27 September the Italian Government advised that the consultations would not be completed by 31 October and therefore requested a further extension of the time-limit until 31 December 1961. In order to avoid a postal ballot so shortly before the nineteenth session, it was decided to submit this request to the CONTRACTING PARTIES early in the session and the following draft decision is now submitted for consideration by the CONTRACTING PARTIES:

Draft

Decision further Extending the Time-limit in Article XIX:3(a) for Notification by Contracting Parties of any Suspension of Obligations or Concessions in connexion with the Action by the Australian Government under Article XIX with respect to Certain Woollen Goods

Considering that the Government of Australia has taken action under Article XIX affecting concessions listed in Part I of Schedule I (items ex 105 (f) (1) and ex 105 (E) (1));

Considering that the Government of Australia is consulting with other contracting parties, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article XIX, in respect of this action;

Considering that the CONTRACTING PARTIES decided on 31 August 1961 to extend to 31 October 1961 the time-limit prescribed in paragraph 3(a) of Article XIX for a government to avail itself, in the event of a failure of a consultation, of its right to suspend equivalent obligations of concessions; and

Considering that the said consultations have not yet been completed,

The CONTRACTING PARTIES

Decide that, with respect to the Australian action referred to above, the time-limit prescribed in Article XIX:3(a) shall be further extended to 31 December 1961.