

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/1679  
18 December 1961

Limited Distribution

CONTRACTING PARTIES  
Nineteenth Session

Original: Spanish

## RECOURSE TO ARTICLE XXIII BY URUGUAY

### Statement by the Representative of Uruguay at the Meeting of the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 8 December 1961

In the statements made by my delegation on 27 September last before the Council, and on 21 November at the present session, (documents L/1572 and L/1647), we presented the basic elements which we considered would be helpful to the CONTRACTING PARTIES in this matter, and we need therefore not expound them at length now. In addition, document L/1662 has just been distributed, containing a revised version of the table circulated earlier under the symbol Spec(61)294.

We consider that our case meets not just one, but all the requirements of Article XXIII:1, since it concerns not only the non-fulfilment of obligations, but also the application of other measures which, taken together, constitute a state of affairs so generalized that it may well fall within the concept provided for in section (c) of that paragraph.

The consultations held with individual countries as a preliminary to this step were conducted with the utmost impartiality. It will be noted that in presenting this matter we do not make any distinction between countries. It is our firm intention to maintain this attitude, for we consider it the most objective and impersonal one, and accordingly, that most likely to result in equitable solutions reached in an atmosphere of equanimity. In accordance with Article XXIII, it is for the CONTRACTING PARTIES to give any ruling in regard to the treatment accorded to Uruguay and to the particular features of such treatment in the various import markets; and, as also provided under Article XXIII, the CONTRACTING PARTIES may make appropriate recommendations.

We have followed with keen attention the discussion at the recent ministerial meeting which was devoted to questions which may well have a direct and salutary effect on our problem.

The recommendations made by the Ministers include the prompt adoption of procedures for negotiating access to markets for agricultural products of the temperate zone. This may lead to a marked improvement in the present situation, and in order to stress its importance with a key product, our delegation succeeded in gaining agreement to its proposal that meat, which is of special interest to us, should be given special attention by the Council when it meets in February to consider the establishment of the preparatory groups.

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We have asked the Executive Secretary to have the necessary preliminary studies carried out by his technical staff so that the preparatory group on meat can commence its work in favourable conditions - and here I should like to state that it is our intention to request that this group be appointed at the February meeting of the Council.

We are therefore prepared to wait for a reasonable period, which can in no case be long, before deciding whether or not to request the CONTRACTING PARTIES to take action pursuant to Article XXIII:2 on the matter raised by my delegation.

We wish, nevertheless, to place this matter formally before the CONTRACTING PARTIES now.

Accordingly we consider, and we should like this fact to be acknowledged and confirmed, that the CONTRACTING PARTIES have taken formal cognizance of this request, under Article XXIII:2. If this is accepted, we shall not insist that our application be given immediate consideration. Nevertheless, we ask the CONTRACTING PARTIES to give express authorization to the Council to take up this matter, should Uruguay so request - in other words, to investigate the matter and make appropriate recommendations or rulings. If this procedure is agreed to, we are prepared to leave matters as they stand for the time being.

Furthermore, this would give additional time to the contracting parties with whom we have conducted negotiations, to study the representations and proposals which Uruguay has made or may make, with a view to improving the present situation. We hope that, at this stage, the contracting parties concerned consider our case in a favourable light, particularly after the discussion at the ministerial meeting. In this way, we shall achieve wider markets and at the same time a proper balance between obligations and benefits, and these are Uruguay's objectives.