

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON  
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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URUGUAY - IMPORT SURCHARGES

Communications Received Concerning the Decision of 20 July 1963

With reference to the Decision of 20 July 1963, distributed in document L/2041, certain governments have requested the circulation of the following statements:

Belgium (abstention)

"In taking a stand with respect to Uruguay's application for a waiver, the Belgian Government has taken into consideration the fact that the measures taken by the Uruguayan Government for the benefit of that country's merchant navy on grounds of economic development needs give rise to a substantive problem in connexion with the principle of non-discrimination. The Belgian Government considers that this question should be examined by the CONTRACTING PARTIES as soon as possible having regard, on the one hand, to special economic needs of the developing countries and, on the other hand, to the legitimate interests of other countries."

Letters in identical terms have been received from the governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Luxemburg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which also recorded abstentions.

Sweden

"Casting its vote in favour of the granting of a waiver for Uruguay, decided by the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 8 May 1961, the Swedish Government specifically pointed out that they thereby did not sanction the element of discrimination contained in the Uruguayan text and that the Government acted on the assumption that the discrimination would soon be eliminated.

"The Swedish Government has noted that the discriminatory elements have been strengthened by the Uruguayan Government by a decree of 13 June 1963. The Swedish Government, who consider that this trend towards increased discrimination will seriously hamper the normal flow of trade, wish to stress the importance of having the policy followed by the Uruguayan Government in this respect carefully examined at the time when a further extension of the waiver will be discussed. It is with this in mind that Sweden at this stage has voted in favour of a temporary extension of the waiver."

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