

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/2373

8 March 1965

Limited Distribution

Original: English

## AUSTRALIAN ACTION UNDER ARTICLE XIX ON COPPER BASED SHEET AND STRIP

### Notification by the Australian Government

The following communication has been received from the Government of Australia.

The Australian Government wishes to advise the CONTRACTING PARTIES that in accordance with the provisions of Article XIX of the General Agreement, it proposes to impose quantitative restrictions on imports of:

Copper sheet and strip less than 1/8 in. in thickness  
Ex item 137(B)(1) of the Australian Tariff

Brass sheet and strip less than 1/8 in. in thickness  
Ex item 137(B)(2) of the Australian Tariff

Copper foil from 0.002 in. to 0.006 in. in thickness  
Ex item 137(E)(1) of the Australian Tariff

Brass foil from 0.002 in. to 0.006 in. in thickness  
Ex item 137(E)(2) of the Australian Tariff

Following a recent inquiry the Australian Tariff Board has found that such action is necessary to prevent serious injury to domestic producers of the relevant goods during a period of temporary shortage of Australian produced unwrought copper.

Australian producers of copper based sheet and strip normally draw their supplies of unwrought copper from Australian production at a price of £A. 340 per ton. The temporary closure of the principal Australian copper smelter, which provided about 70 per cent of local requirements of copper, has made large-scale imports of unwrought copper necessary to maintain domestic production of copper and brass sheet and foil. With unwrought copper in short

./.

supply throughout the world, the imported raw material has been available for shipment to Australia only through the London Metal Exchange, at prices as high as £(Australian)600 per ton. In these circumstances, Australian fabricators of copper and brass sheet and strip are no longer able to compete with overseas fabricators who are still in a position to obtain most of their requirements of unwrought copper direct from copper producers at considerably lower prices of about £(Australian)325 per ton.

As delay would cause damage difficult to repair, the quantitative restrictions on imports will be imposed as from 4 March 1965. The need for their continuation will be kept under close examination and the position will be reviewed before the end of the year.

The substantially interested contracting party has been advised of the proposed action. The Australian Government is ready to consult under the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article XIX.