

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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NOTIFICATIONS OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS OF NEWLY-INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES

Addendum

TOGO

In response to the Director-General's request contained in GATT/AIR/534, the Government of Togo has submitted the following information concerning its import restrictions. This submission is made without prejudice to the question of the consistency of the measures in force with the obligations of the General Agreement.

Togo applies no quantitative import restrictions and does not grant privileged treatment to imports from any States.

By virtue of the fact, however, that Togo is a member of the franc area, its external financial relations are governed by the common exchange regulations applicable to all countries in the area. The amount of foreign exchange at Togo's disposal in any given year is consequently limited. As a precautionary measure, therefore, and in order to follow the amount of foreign exchange required to finance imports, the Government of Togo requires import traders to apply for licences which are liberally granted up to the global amount of foreign exchange available.

In addition, there are no customs duties in Togo, but only ad valorem fiscal charges applied without discrimination to all goods, regardless of origin.

On 11 September 1965, however, the Government found itself obliged to suspend "until further notice" the issue of import licences for Japanese products. In 1964, sales to Togo by Japan, which consist essentially of cotton fabrics and garments (CFA frs.1,172 million) and metal sheets and plates (CFA frs.155 million) reached a total of CFA frs.1,455 million, as against Japan's purchases of phosphate (CFA frs.294 million), so that there was a substantial trade deficit amounting to CFA frs.1,161 million.

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The tendency continued in 1965 and, for that reason, Togo decided to apply this measure in order to induce Japan to follow a commercial policy more favourable towards Togo. The measure was in fact rescinded in January 1966.

Studies are at present being made with a view to affording adequate protection to the Togolese textile factory which will go into production in the very near future.

Lastly, with a view to reducing the trade deficit, the Togolese Government proposes to refuse to grant foreign exchange in future for a certain number of products, a list of which still has to be drawn up.

