

RESTRICTED

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Limited Distribution

CONTRACTING PARTIES

Twenty-Third Session
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IMPORT RESTRICTIONS OF CONTRACTING PARTIES

Note by the Director-General

1. In GATT/AIR/554, in response to a request made at the twenty-second session, the Director-General requested all contracting parties to notify quantitative import restrictions which they are applying contrary to the provisions of the General Agreement and without authorization of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, in accordance with the procedure adopted at the seventeenth session (BISD, Ninth Supplement, pages 18-20). In order to obtain a more complete response the Director-General also asked countries which had previously indicated that they had no such restrictions to review their situation and report whether their earlier responses were still valid. Further, the Director-General requested newly independent contracting parties, which may not yet have been in a position to determine whether they wished to invoke the provisions of Article XVIII as justification for some or all restrictions in force, to notify, as an interim measure, all restrictions in force. It was suggested that these last-mentioned notifications could be reproduced as a separate category, as restrictions in force in newly independent countries, without prejudice to the question of their consistency with the obligations of the General Agreement.
2. New or revised responses have been received from a number of countries, and several others recently notified changes in quantitative restrictions in other contexts, which made possible revision of their notifications. These, with notifications and responses already on hand, have brought the total number of responding countries to fifty-one. These responses are grouped in three categories below:

I. Countries which report lists of restrictions inconsistent with the General Agreement and not authorized by the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

*Australia	Italy
Austria	*Japan
Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands	Norway
*Canada	Portugal
*Denmark	*Sweden
France	*United Kingdom
Federal Republic of Germany	*United States

II. Newly independent countries which have notified their entire system of quantitative restrictions without reference to the question of consistency.**

*Chad	Malta
*Congo (Brazzaville)	*Niger
Cyprus	Sierra Leone
*Gabon	Tanzania
*Malawi	Uganda

III. Countries which report that they have no restrictions inconsistent with the General Agreement and not authorized by the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

Brazil	Finland	Kuwait	Peru
Burma	Ghana	Malaysia	South Africa
*Ceylon	Greece	New Zealand	*Spain
Chile	India	Nicaragua	*Switzerland
Cuba	Indonesia	Nigeria	*Turkey
*Czechoslovakia	Israel	Pakistan	*Uruguay
			*Yugoslavia

5. New or revised responses of contracting parties which maintain import restrictions (indicated by an asterisk in the grouping above) are being issued in two series. The first, L/2568 and Addenda, contains revised responses of contracting parties which have notified import restrictions inconsistent with the General Agreement and not authorized by the CONTRACTING PARTIES (Category I above). The second, L/2577 and Addenda, contains new responses of newly independent countries which have notified their entire import restriction systems (Category II). There will be no re-issue in either document of past notices on import restrictions (L/2556 and Corrs. and Addenda) until a new or revised notification is received.

*A new response has been received from this country or material notified in other contexts has permitted revision of its earlier notification.

**Some of these countries had earlier reported their entire restrictive system as "residual", but the term seems inappropriate. Most of the twenty-four countries which have not yet submitted any notification concerning their import restrictions would presumably fall in this category. (See paragraph 4)

4. Responses to GATT/AIR/53⁴ indicate that several newly independent countries have in fact been encouraged to notify import restrictions even though they are not in a position to state which restrictions they may ultimately wish to justify under the provisions of the General Agreement. This response is most welcome and it is hoped that those who have not yet replied will soon do so as the more complete documentation thus made available will prove helpful to all contracting parties in their relations with one another. Full documentation will also contribute importantly to the success of numerous GATT activities, including the effort to expand trade between less-developed countries, the functioning of the Trade Centre and the conduct of the Kennedy Round.