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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

CONTRACTING PARTIES
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ASSOCIATION BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

Statement by Mr. Emre of Turkey, on 28 March 1966, on the Implementation of the Agreement Establishing an Association Between Turkey and the European Economic Community

The distinguished representative of the European Economic Community has given us a comprehensive picture of developments in the Community. We have asked for the floor in order to make a modest contribution to this picture by a brief comment on the implementation of the Ankara Agreement under which Turkey has become an associate member of the European Economic Community. The Ankara Agreement, as you know, came into effect on 1 December 1964, after the legal and constitutional formalities had been completed. It has therefore been in application for only a year and this period, as you would realize, is too short to allow any valid evaluation of the economic and commercial impact of the Association Agreement. In the course of the preparatory stage which is now in its second year, Turkey is expected, under the provision of Article 3 of the Agreement, to strengthen its economy with the assistance of the Community with a view to being able to take on the obligations which will accrue to it during the succeeding stages. In this connexion, the financial aid which Turkey receives from the European Economic Community deserves to be mentioned but not retain our attention here.

In the field of trade, the tariff quotas envisaged by Article 2 of the Provisional Protocol annexed to the Ankara Agreement became operative on 1 December 1964. The Council of Association, in pursuance of the provision of Article 5 of the Provisional Protocol, has taken account of the seasonal character of the exports of the products concerned when fixing the volume of the tariff quotas to be opened by the member States of the Community for the month of December 1964 in relation to four products mentioned in Article 2 of the said Protocol. These quotas have not been fully utilized; due to the fact that Turkish products enjoying tariff quotas are traditionally imported into the Community before Christmas and the new year festivities. Quotas for 1964 were granted only for December and importers in the Community did not have sufficient time to place orders. The tariff quotas granted by the member States for 1965 have been largely utilized.

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In December 1965, the Council of Association, in pursuance of Article 4 of the Provisional Protocol, decided to increase, for 1966, the volume of certain quotas, to be opened by the member States, for unmanufactured or manufactured tobacco and tobacco refuse, as well as the volume of tariff quotas granted for dried raisins and dried figs. Increases thus effected, amounted, on the average, to 10 per cent. The quotas for hazelnuts have not, however, been increased. In application of Article 2(a) and (b) of the Provisional Protocol, the customs duties applicable to the tariff quotas for tobacco and dried raisins have been reduced by a further 10 per cent. These duties are now only 30 per cent and 10 per cent respectively of the levels in the member States of the European Economic Community on 1 January 1957. With respect to dried figs, each member State is applying a customs duty equal to that which it applied on imports of this item on 1 January 1957, reduced by a half of reductions which the member States of the Community granted to each other. The customs duty applicable to the quotas for hazelnuts is 2.5 per cent ad valorem.

The implementation of the association arrangement is smoothly following the path anticipated in the Ankara Agreement as it was submitted to the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The process of going progressively through the stages within the time-limits will lead to the full realization of a customs union between parties to the Ankara Agreement in conformity with the provisions of the General Agreement.