

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/2737

25 January 1967

Limited Distribution

DERESTRICTION OF DOCUMENTS

Current Procedures

Procedures for the derestriction of documents were adopted at the fourth, sixth, fourteenth and twenty-third sessions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. For the information of contracting parties a consolidation of the procedures currently in force is set out below. In all cases, addenda, corrigenda and revisions of the documents concerned are included.

1. Documents in the L/-, COM.II/-, COT/-, BOP/- and C/- series (respectively: Limited Distribution, Committee II, Cotton Textiles Committee, Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions and Council) are derestricted sixty days after the close of each session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, and sixty days after any half-year during which no session is held. Decisions adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES during sessions or by postal ballots, are published in the L/ series as unrestricted documents.
2. Documents in the COM.IV/- series (Committee on Trade and Development) are derestricted after each meeting of the Committee on Trade and Development, subject to a fifteen-day period after circulation of the list of documents proposed for derestriction.
3. Documents in the SR.../- series (summary records of sessions) are derestricted at the end of the second following session.
4. Documents in the C/M/- series (Minutes of the Council of Representatives) and selected documents in the SECRET/- series are derestricted at the end of each session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, with a delay of two years.

The secretariat gives advance notice to contracting parties and inter-governmental organizations of the documents due for derestriction and fixes the date for the derestriction to take place. Any document, or any item in a summary record or Council minute, remains restricted at the request of a contracting party or an intergovernmental organization. A list of newly-derestricted documents is issued by the secretariat shortly after each date fixed for derestriction.

All documents in series other than those mentioned in paragraphs 1 to 4 remain restricted, with the following exceptions:

COM.I/-, COM.III/- and AC/- series, now discontinued, have been derestricted. INF/- series and GATT press releases are not subject to restriction.