

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Limited Distribution

CONTRACTING PARTIES
Twenty-Fourth Session

RESIDUAL IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

Note by the Secretariat

Revision

1. As is customary, early in the current year the secretariat requested all contracting parties to notify any restrictions on imports which are applied inconsistently with the provisions of the General Agreement and without authorization of the CONTRACTING PARTIES (GATT/AIR/593). In the interest of making more complete documentation available, attention was also called to the possibility that newly-independent countries might wish to notify all import restrictions in force without prejudice to the question of their consistency with the General Agreement.
2. Replies to the airgram have been issued in two separate series - L/2740 and addenda for the countries which have restrictions of a "residual" character, and L/2749 for the newly-independent countries. To date, replies from eighteen countries have been issued in the first series and from an additional eight in the second. Five of the countries which have responded to the airgram state that they maintain no import restrictions which are inconsistent with the Agreement or which are not authorized by waivers (Ceylon, Czechoslovakia, Kuwait, Spain and Peru).
3. Besides the twenty-six countries accounted for above, thirteen countries submitted notifications on import restrictions in response to the inquiry in 1966, but have not yet done so in 1967, and some nineteen others report regularly on their import restrictions, mainly in connexion with balance-of-payments consultations. There remain twenty contracting parties from which no comprehensive up-to-date information has been received. One or two of this remainder group have reported from time to time certain liberalization actions, either in connexion with the regular review of residual restrictions or in connexion with the work of the Committee on Trade and Development, and several have in the more remote past stated that they had no such restrictions. However, out-of-date or fragmentary information does not provide a satisfactory basis for answering the many questions received from individual contracting parties attempting to gather information for trade promotion studies or similar purposes. The secretariat could serve the contracting parties much better if full responses could be received regularly from all. The countries for which satisfactory current information has not been notified in one context or another are listed below.

Have made reports now out of date or incomplete

France

Rhodesia

Uganda

Have stated, but not recently, that they apply no "residuals"

Cuba

Nicaragua

Malaysia

Nigeria

Have not replied to the requests for notifications

Argentina

Guyana

Barbados

Haiti¹

Cameroon

Korea¹

Central African Republic

Poland

Dahomey

Rwanda

Dominican Republic

Upper Volta

Gambia

4. In this connexion, attention is called to the Panel reports adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES in 1962 (BISD, Eleventh Supplement, pages 206-213) whereby it was agreed that negative lists should be notified describing precisely the products subject to restriction, stating the type of restrictions applicable (quota, discretionary licensing, prohibition or other) and specifying the countries to which the restrictions apply, together with indications concerning the expected duration of the restrictions.

¹Has stated that it intends to invoke Article XVIII:B.