

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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URUGUAYAN IMPORT SURCHARGES

Request for Extension of Waiver

The following communication, dated 21 June 1971, from the permanent representative of Uruguay has been received by the Director-General.

1. By Decision of 28 August 1970 (document L/3435), Uruguay was authorized to maintain the surcharges at present applied by it until 30 June 1971 at the latest, but not after the end of the first regular session to be held in 1971.
2. In accordance with the Decision of 26 July 1968 (L/3051), I have the honour to communicate the following information:

Since that date the Uruguayan Government has continued to apply the foreign trade policy which was described to the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions on 26 April 1968 and 18 June 1970; the relevant records (L/3006, Annex II and Spec(70)69) served as a basis for the drafts of the Decisions of 26 July 1968 and 28 August 1970 (L/3006 and L/3435).

In particular, the policy is fully maintained under which all import restrictions are revoked, in pursuance of the decrees of 6 November and 1 December 1967 and 9 January 1968.

It should also be noted that, nevertheless, a system has had to be maintained in force which has taken account of the balance-of-payments situation having regard to the country's general economic situation, through the rational application of a system of import surcharges.

3. On 4 June 1971 the Uruguayan Government approved a number of decrees introducing some amendments to the consignations and surcharges in effect to date.
4. Consequently, as clearly it is impossible for the moment to contemplate eliminating the system of surcharges which has been applied in recent years, with the amendments already reported, I must request a provisional four-month extension of the Decision authorizing the application of surcharges, on the understanding that such authorization will remain subject to the conditions set forth in the Decision of 8 May 1961.

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5. At the Council's meeting next autumn, the Uruguayan Government will furnish full information concerning the decrees of 4 June 1971 and the terms and conditions set forth in the Decision of 8 May 1961.

Because of the fact that the above-mentioned decrees were only adopted very recently and it is therefore impossible to receive all the necessary information in time, I must for the moment limit myself to requesting a provisional four-month extension, as already mentioned above.