

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON  
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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30 January 1979

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ARTICLE XIX - ACTION BY THE UNITED STATES

Lag Screws or Bolts

Addendum

The following communication, dated 22 January 1979, has been received from the United States Mission.

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In a communication dated 27 November 1978 (circulated as document L/4742), the CONTRACTING PARTIES were advised that the United States International Trade Commission had determined that lag screws or bolts (except mine-roof bolts) and bolts and their nuts imported in the same shipment, nuts, and screws having shanks or threads over 0.24 inch in diameter, all the foregoing of iron or steel, provided for in Items 646.49, 646.54, 646.56 and 646.63 of the Tariff Schedules of the United States (TSUS) are being imported into the United States in such increased quantities as to be a substantial cause of serious injury, or threat thereof, to the domestic industry producing articles like or directly competitive with the imported articles, and that to remedy such injury, or threat thereof, the Commission recommended that existing tariffs applying to such nuts, bolts and screws be increased. In addition the communication advised that the United States Government was prepared to consult with the CONTRACTING PARTIES and those contracting parties having a substantial interest as exporters of such nuts, bolts and screws regarding the proposed tariff action.

After careful consideration of the Commission's report and other relevant factors, including the views of exporting countries, the President determined that import relief was warranted and, on 4 January 1979, issued a proclamation granting relief in the form of an increase in the duties on imported nuts, bolts and screws, effective 6 January 1979.

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The President's action does, however, differ from that recommended by the International Trade Commission. As noted in L/4742, the Commission had recommended the provision of import relief over a five-year period in the form of the imposition of an ad valorem tariff (in lieu of or in addition to existing rates of duty) declining in stages from 20 per cent to 10 per cent. The President decided to provide a modified form of relief by imposing, for a three-year period, an ad valorem tariff of 15 per cent (a) in lieu of the existing rates of duty applicable to lag screws or bolts and screws having shanks or threads over 0.24 inch in diameter, of iron or steel, provided in Items 646.49 and 646.63 of the TSUS and (b) in addition to existing rates applicable to bolts (except mine-roof bolts) and bolts and their nuts imported in the same shipment and nuts, of iron or steel, provided in Items 646.54 and 646.56 of the TSUS. The resulting smaller tariff increases and shorter term of application reflect an effort on the part of the United States Government to minimize to the extent possible the impact of the provision of import relief on foreign suppliers of nuts, bolts and screws to the United States market.

The United States Government reaffirms its readiness to consult with the CONTRACTING PARTIES and those contracting parties having a substantial interest as exporters of the affected nuts, bolts and screws regarding its action.

