

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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ARTICLE XIX - ACTION BY AUSTRALIA

Certain Works Trucks and Stackers

The following communication, dated 15 September 1980, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Australia.

The Australian Government wishes to advise Contracting Parties that, in accordance with the provisions of Article XIX of the General Agreement, it has decided to introduce temporary quantitative restrictions on imports of battery electric fork lift trucks, stackers and pallet trucks of a kind falling respectively within paragraph 87.07.11 sub-item 87.07.3 and 84.22.99. These goods will be subject to import licensing for a period of 12 months during which time import licences will be limited to dollars 3 million for all the goods specified: dollars 1 million for the period 1 April to 30 September 1980 and dollars 2 million for the succeeding six month period.

Importers' quota entitlements will be based on their import performance in calendar year 1978 and quotas will be transferable between products and importers quotas will apply to imports from all sources other than goods of Papua New Guinea origin which are exempted under the Papua New Guinea Trade and Commercial Relations Agreement (PATCRA).

The restrictions have been introduced following an investigation by the Temporary Assistance Authority (T.A.A.) which concluded that imports were responsible for disruption of the local market and that inventories currently held by importers threatened further disruption. Because of this, and the volume of imports in recent months, the Government accepted the T.A.A.'s recommendation for backdating the licensing period to 1 April 1980 as any later commencement date for the licensing period would have considerably reduced the effectiveness of the temporary assistance measures.

The Australian Government is prepared to enter into consultations on this matter under the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article XIX."



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