

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/5053

30 October 1980

Limited Distribution

## UPDATING OF DOCUMENTATION ON NON-TARIFF MEASURES

### Note by the Secretariat

#### A. Inventories of Non-Tariff Measures

At their thirty-fifth session in November 1979, the CONTRACTING PARTIES agreed as part of the future work programme of the GATT that in the context of the continuation of the process of trade liberalization, the secretariat should be requested to update the relevant information (SR.35/5, page 77 and Annex VI of L/4884/Add.1). A proposal by the Director-General (C/110) relating to procedures for the updating of the Inventories of Non-Tariff Measures (contained in documents MTN/3B/1-5 and Addenda and MTN/3E/DOC/5-10 and 12 and Addenda) was adopted by the Council on 26 March 1980 (C/M/139, item 7). In accordance with these procedures, contracting parties were subsequently invited by the end of July 1980 which of the notifications they had earlier made they wished to maintain; if no confirmation were received within the time period indicated, it would be assumed that the contracting party in question was no longer interested in maintaining the notifications and the latter would consequently be deleted from the Inventories.<sup>2</sup> In addition, the secretariat addressed letters to the twenty-eight delegations having submitted notifications to the Inventory contained in documents MTN/3B/1-5 and Addenda 1-10 in which more details, including copies of the respective notifications made, were contained.

The situation on 24 October 1980 was the following: of the twenty-eight delegations (the EC and, for some notifications, the Nordic countries counting each as one) mentioned above, sixteen delegations have responded to the request for comments. One delegation has in addition submitted new notifications against a number of countries, while some others have reserved their right to do so at a later stage. Of the twelve delegations who have not so far responded, six have requested an extension of the time-limit (i.e. end-July). Since the summer recess, the secretariat has been in contact with delegations concerned with the aim of securing their comments at the earliest possible date.

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<sup>1</sup> GATT/AIR/1624 of 16 April 1980.

<sup>2</sup> This does not apply to the documents MTN/3E/Doc/5 to 8 and Addenda which are established on the basis of notifications submitted by the countries applying the measures.

As is provided for under the procedures adopted by the Council, the secretariat has asked the delegations maintaining measures with respect to which existing notifications were upheld or new notifications were made for their comments, to be provided within eight weeks. The number of delegations to which letters were sent in late September and early October is a total of seventy-six. Some of these have already requested an extension of the time-limit (i.e. eight weeks).

In view of the time taken by delegations to indicate whether they wish to confirm existing notifications and the additional time period required for countries maintaining the measures to provide their comments, it would be difficult at this stage to give an estimate as to when the first instalment of the revised Inventory (contained in MTN/3B/1-5 and Addenda) can be circulated to contracting parties. It is to be hoped that with the co-operation of delegations this can be done early in the coming year.

B. Joint Working Group on Import Restrictions

In accordance with the decision of the Council at its meeting of 29 June 1971 (C/M/70 page 5) which was reaffirmed by the Council at its meeting of 26 March 1980 (C/M/139 page 11) that the data assembled by the Joint Working Group should be kept up to date and that contracting parties should be invited to notify annually, by 30 September, any changes which should be made concerning restrictions contained in the consolidated document, the secretariat circulated an airgram on 8 May 1980 requesting notifications as to any changes which might have been made in respect to the situation as reflected in document L/4900 of 19 December 1979.

As of 24 October 1980, three of the sixteen delegations covered by the Joint Working Group have submitted a notification, either indicating certain changes to the existing documentation or the fact that no changes have occurred.

As in the past years, after the secretariat has checked whether further replies are on the way it is intended to reissue the present document (L/4900) towards the end of this year.