

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/5070

14 November 1980

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## REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON IMPORT LICENSING TO THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

1. The Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures entered into force on 1 January 1980. On 24 October 1980, there were 19 signatories to the Agreement: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, the European Economic Community, Finland, Hungary, India, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Romania, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom on behalf of Hong Kong, the United States and Yugoslavia. Some of these are in the process of ratifying the Agreement.
2. Thirty-one contracting parties and two non-contracting parties have observer status. Two international organizations (the IMF and UNCTAD) have attended meetings of the Committee in an observer capacity.
3. The Committee has held two meetings:  
24 January 1980 (LIC/M/1)  
29 April 1980 (LIC/M/2)
4. Procedural questions have been settled in the same way as in other Committees. Those include:
  - (a) Procedures for the participation of observers (L/4984 and LIC/M/2, para.3)
  - (b) Circulation of documents, (LIC/M/2, para. 21 and 22)
  - (c) Procedures for derestriction of documents (LIC/M/2, para 23)
5. The Committee discussed procedures for the accession to the Agreement of non-contracting parties and agreed to revert to this question at its next meeting (LIC/M/2, para. 15-20).

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6. The Committee has received notifications giving names of designated persons available to serve on panels dealing with licensing matters. This was without prejudice to any decision that may be made on the appropriate mechanism for dispute settlement.

7. The Committee agreed to suggestions made by the GATT secretariat on information to be supplied and procedures for notification under the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures. Relevant information available to the secretariat by 24 October 1980 will be issued in LIC/W/6 and addenda.

8. The next meeting of the Committee is expected to be held in December 1980. The Committee has agreed that, at this meeting, it would, inter alia, take stock of the situation regarding notifications, the manner in which the required biannual reviews of the Agreement should be organized and the date of the first review (LIC/M/2, para.28).