

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/5248

17 November 1981

Limited Distribution

REPORT (1981) OF THE COMMITTEE ON IMPORT LICENSING TO THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

1. This report is submitted under Article 5.5 of the Agreement on Import Licensing. It sets out the activities of the Committee since November 1980 (the first report, covering the period January-October 1980 was contained in document L/5070).

2. As of 10 November 1981 there were twenty-two signatories to the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, the European Economic Community, Finland, Hungary, India, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom on behalf of Hong Kong, United States and Yugoslavia. Argentina and Yugoslavia have signed the Agreement subject to ratification.

3. Twenty-six contracting parties and six non-contracting parties have observer status. Two international organizations (IMF and UNCTAD) have attended meetings of the Committee in an observer capacity.

4. The Committee on Import Licensing has met on one occasion after its report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES in 1980 and on two occasions during the second year of operation of the Agreement.

12 December 1980 (LIC/M/3 and L/5091)

6 April 1981 (LIC/M/4 and L/5136)

9-10 November 1981 (LIC/M/5 and L/5247)

5. In connexion with the procedures for the accession to the Agreement of non-contracting parties, the Committee decided that, pending the adoption of formal procedures, any non-contracting party which wished to accede to the Agreement under Article 5.1(c) would indicate this fact in a letter addressed to the Chairman of the Committee, a copy of which would also be sent to the GATT secretariat. (LIC/M/3). The Committee noted that no non-contracting party had expressed the wish to accede to the Agreement at the time it held its fifth meeting in November 1981 (LIC/M/5).

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6. The Committee examined the information available on import licensing procedures and agreed that delegations should supply information as called for in the Agreement (LIC/M/4 and LIC/M/5).

- (a) Notifications made to the Committee under Article 5 paragraph 4 on implementation and administration of the Agreement were reproduced in documents LIC/1 and Addenda 1 to 27.
- (b) Names of national publications containing information on licensing procedures of individual signatories and a checklist of copies of these publications available for consultation in the secretariat were listed in documents LIC/3, LIC/3/Corr.1, LIC/3/Addenda 1 to 3.
- (c) Information on the way in which public notice is given by signatories in accordance with Article 3, sub-paragraph (d) of the Agreement is contained in LIC/4/Rev.1 and LIC/4/Rev.1/Suppl.1.

7. Signatories have also supplied data on their licensing systems, bringing up-to-date their individual responses to the GATT Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures (L/5106).

8. The Committee agreed on the format and content for its first biennial review of the implementation and operation of the Agreement under Article 5.5 (LIC/M/3 and LIC/M/4), and carried out this review at its November 1981 meeting on the basis of a factual document prepared by the secretariat (LIC/W/12/Rev.1). A number of questions were raised and additional information was provided during the meeting by several signatories on their import licensing procedures. The additional information supplied by signatories in the course of the meeting together with the results of the review will be reflected in a revision of the basic document which will be circulated as a document of the Committee in the LIC/series or in the minutes of the meeting, as appropriate.

9. The Committee agreed to hold its next meeting on 10-11 May 1982.