

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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ARTICLE XIX - ACTION BY AUSTRALIA

Hoop and Strip of Iron or Steel

The following communication, dated 10 September 1982, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Australia.

The Australian Government wishes to advise CONTRACTING PARTIES that it has introduced, with effect from 27 August 1982, tariff quotas on imports of hot-rolled hoop and strip of iron or steel of a kind falling within tariff item 73.12.1 and certain hoop and strip of iron or steel of a kind falling within tariff item 73.12.3.

The advice is provided in accordance with the provisions of Article XIX of the GATT since this action requires that Australia suspend a binding in its GATT schedule at the MFN rate of 10 per cent ad valorem on ex 73.12: hot-rolled or cold-rolled hoop and strip of iron or steel - not worked: decorated, but not further worked (i.e. patterned during the initial rolling process).

Following a report by the Australian Temporary Assistance Authority on certain flat steel products, pipes and tubes of iron or steel, the Government decided to take action to restrain the growth in imports of the goods under reference.

Accordingly, tariff quotas allow individual importers to import their 1981/82 levels at pre-existing rates of duty. Imports above this level are subject to an additional temporary duty of 150 per cent. Imports entered for home consumption after 26 August 1982 are debited against importers' entitlements.

This decision is intended as a holding action pending the Industries Assistance Commission report on the iron and steel industry in May 1983.

Under the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article XIX, the Australian Government is prepared to enter into consultations on this matter with relevant contracting parties.

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