

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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ISRAEL - IMPORT DEPOSIT

The following communication, dated 15 June 1983, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Israel.

In accordance with the Declaration on Trade Measures Taken for Balance-of-Payments Purposes, adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 28 November 1979, and Article XVIII of the General Agreement, we wish to notify that the Government of Israel has introduced a temporary import deposit scheme for the purpose of reducing the balance-of-payments deficit.

The current account deficit increased from US\$4.3 billion in 1981 to US\$4.7 billion in 1982. During 1983 this negative trend continued. During the first four months of 1983, the deficit in the trade balance showed an increase of 35 per cent as compared to the same period of 1982 (from US\$787 million to US\$1,061 million).

Under these circumstances, the import deposit measure was brought into force on 1 June 1983 in order to curb any further deterioration in the balance-of-payments position.

The following are the main features of the deposit scheme:

1. Importers will be required to deposit with the Treasury, in Israeli currency, 15 per cent of the value of the imported goods (including customs duty, purchase tax and other charges, with the exception of value added tax).
2. The amount deposited will be refunded after one year.
3. The following imports are exempted from the deposit requirement:
 1. shipment for which the value does not exceed 25,000 Israeli Shekels.
 2. goods for personal use, excluding motor vehicles.
 3. imported goods free of customs duties.
 4. certain imported goods liable to duty are also exempted from the import deposit.
4. In Annex A the goods (under CCC nomenclature) subjected to the scheme are listed.

5. The import deposit applies to goods released from customs as from 1 June 1983, even if the goods had been imported prior to that date.
6. The duration of the scheme is limited to six months.

The measure affects goods imported with a value of US\$1 billion per year out of an estimated total of US\$8 billion. Given the duration of the scheme of only six months, the volume of imported goods affected is estimated to be US\$500 million.

Full details of the measure will be provided to the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions within the framework of the forthcoming consultations with Israel.

ANNEX A

List of Items (under CCCN) Subjected to Import Deposit

03.01.4030	30.04.1000	39.02.5089	44.18.9900
03.01.4090	30.04.9900	39.02.5091	48.01.2090
11.08	32.09.2000	39.02.5099	48.01.9910
16.01	32.09.9910	39.03.4020	48.07.1090
16.02	32.09.9990	39.03.4021	48.07.1500
16.03	32.10	39.03.4029	48.07.9900
16.04.2010	32.11	39.03.4031	48.15.3000
16.04.2090	32.12	39.03.4032	48.15.9900
16.04.9900	32.13	39.03.4090	48.16.9900
16.05	33.06.1000	39.07.1410	48.19.2000
17.02.9900	33.06.3000	39.07.1420	48.19.9900
17.04.1000	33.06.4010	39.07.1430	58.01
17.04.2000	33.06.4090	39.07.1440	58.02
17.04.3000	33.06.7500	39.07.1441	58.06.1000
17.04.4000	33.06.9900	39.07.1449	58.06.9900
17.04.5000	34.01.1000	39.07.1460	58.10.3099
17.04.9900	34.01.9900	39.07.1471	59.02.1020
18.06.3000	34.02.1000	39.07.1479	59.02.1090
18.06.9900	34.02.9900	39.07.1481	59.03.1092
20.01.1000	34.05.2090	39.07.1489	59.08.3030
20.01.9900	34.05.9900	39.07.5090	59.08.3040
20.02.1000	35.05.2000	39.07.5100	59.08.3060
20.02.4010	35.06	39.07.5590	59.08.3090
20.02.4090	39.01.3000	40.10	59.08.9900
20.02.9900	39.01.3510	40.11.3099	59.12.9900
20.04.1000	39.01.3520	40.11.4090	59.14
20.05	39.01.3530	40.11.9900	59.15
20.07.1010	39.01.3531	41.02.1090	60.01.2099
20.07.1090	39.01.3539	41.02.9920	60.02
20.07.9900	39.01.3551	41.02.9990	60.03.3000
21.02.1000	39.01.3552	41.03.9900	60.03.9900
21.07.8000	39.01.3560	41.04.9900	60.04.1000
22.01	39.01.3561	41.05.9900	60.04.2000
22.02	39.01.3569	42.02.2000	60.04.4000
22.03	39.01.3599	42.02.9900	60.04.9900
22.04	39.01.7000	42.03.1019	60.05.1010
22.05.1000	39.02.3000	42.03.9910	60.05.1090
22.05.9900	39.02.4500	42.03.9990	60.05.9990
22.06	39.02.5010	43.03.1010	60.06.3020
22.07	39.02.5050	43.03.1020	60.06.3090
22.08	39.02.5051	43.04	60.06.4010
22.09.2000	39.02.5059	44.15.1500	61.02.1000
22.09.9900	39.02.5071	44.15.2000	61.02.2000
22.10	39.02.5072	44.15.9900	61.02.9900
30.03.99130.03.9990	39.02.5081	44.18.1000	61.03.1000

61.03.2000	69.10.1000	82.09.1020	85.15.7000
61.03.3000	69.10.9900	82.11.2010	85.15.9000
61.03.9900	69.11	82.11.3000	85.20.1020
61.04.1000	69.12	82.14	85.20.2020
61.04.2000	70.04.2010	84.11.1090	85.22.6099
61.04.9900	70.04.2011	84.11.5011	85.23.3000
61.05	70.04.2019	84.11.5091	85.23.9919
61.06	70.04.2090	84.12	85.23.9929
61.07	70.04.9911	84.15.1000	85.23.9990
61.09.1000	70.04.9999	84.15.9910	87.02.1011
61.09.2010	70.05.1000	84.15.9990	87.02.1012
61.09.2090	70.05.1011	84.17.3000	87.02.1017
61.09.3000	70.05.1019	84.19.1000	87.02.2610
61.09.9900	70.05.1090	84.40.1000	87.02.5520
61.10.1022	70.05.9910	84.40.3013	87.02.5530
61.10.1090	70.05.9911	84.40.3014	87.02.5590
61.10.9900	70.05.9919	84.59.2090	87.02.9911
61.11	70.05.9991	84.60.9900	87.02.9919
62.01	70.05.9999	84.61.2000	90.03.1000
62.02	70.07.9900	84.61.2500	90.04
62.03.9990	70.09.9900	84.61.3000	90.17.2114
62.04.9990	70.10.2000	84.61.4000	90.17.4000
62.05.9900	70.13	85.01.2182	92.01.2090
64.01.1000	70.14.0000	85.03.1091	92.02.1000
64.01.2000	73.16.9900	85.03.1099	92.07.1000
64.01.9900	73.17.9900	85.05.8000	92.11.1000
64.02.2000	73.20.3000	85.06.1000	92.11.2000
64.02.9900	73.20.4010	85.06.2000	92.11.9900
64.03	73.31.9900	85.06.9900	94.01
64.04	73.32.1000	85.12.1090	94.03
64.05.1000	73.32.9900	85.12.4000	94.04.2510
64.05.2000	73.36.9900	85.13.1090	94.04.2590
64.04.9910	73.38.1010	85.14.1099	98.02.1000
64.05.9990	73.38.9900	85.14.9900	98.02.2010
68.11	74.03.9900	85.15.4511	98.02.2090
68.16.1500	76.02.9900	85.15.4519	98.05.5000
69.05	76.08.9900	85.15.4591	732
69.07	76.15.1000	85.15.4599	812
69.08	82.05.9900	85.15.5000	