

**GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE**

RESTRICTED

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ARTICLE XIX - ACTION BY AUSTRALIA

Action on Certain Filament Lamps

The following communication, dated 19 July 1983, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Australia.

The Australian Government wishes to advise the CONTRACTING PARTIES, in accordance with the provisions of Article XIX of the General Agreement, that it has decided to suspend the binding of \$A 0.33 per kilogram on filament lamps, other than a kind commonly used in motor vehicles for lighting purposes falling within sub-item 85.20.3. This action is being taken as a result of the Australian Government's decision to increase the duty on filament lamps from 10 per cent to 20 per cent ad valorem following an enquiry by the Temporary Assistance Authority.

When reviewed by the Government last year, concern had been expressed that a 10 per cent protective rate on filament lamps may not be sufficient to support viable local manufacture, at least in the short term. The problems anticipated by the industry have now emerged.

The Temporary Assistance Authority noted that there had been a 30 per cent increase in imports of filament lamps between 1980-81 and 1981-82 and that imports had continued to increase in the eight months to February 1983. The Australian Government notes that the viability of the industry is sensitive to the volume of production and even a small loss of market share could cause disruption. It is considered that based on available evidence the industry is facing a significant competitive pressure from imports and some easing of this pressure would be necessary to reduce the threat of injury. Competition from imports will still continue to compel the industry to make further efforts to improve efficiency in the longer term.

The Australian Government is prepared to enter consultations under Article XIX with those contracting parties having a substantial interest as exporters of the product concerned.

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