

**GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE**

RESTRICTED

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UNITED STATES BAN ON IMPORTS OF STEEL PIPES AND TUBES
FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Communication from the Commission of the European Communities

Addendum

The following communication, dated 11 December 1984, has been received from the delegation of the European Communities.

On 27 November the United States Government decided to place a complete embargo, with effect from 29 November 1984, on imports into the United States of steel pipes and tubes from the European Communities for the remainder of 1984, and to limit these imports in 1985 to 5.9 per cent of the United States apparent consumption. Shipments underway and goods under firm contract were not excluded from the embargo. Under the decision, no limitations were imposed on imports from any other country.

In the three-year period 1981/1982/1983, average annual Community exports of pipes and tubes to the United States were US\$866 million. An import quota of 5.9 per cent of the United States apparent consumption in 1985 would amount to US\$246 million. The trade loss caused by the embargo during December 1984 is estimated at US\$80 million. To this must be added the financial losses incurred by United States importers and/or EC exporters in respect of shipment underway and goods under contract.

During the fortieth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 30 November the EC declared that it expected prompt notification of the import restrictions and indicated its intention to ask for immediate consultations with the United States.

As, by 7 December, the United States have made no notification of the measures to GATT, the Communities felt it necessary to request the convocation of a GATT Council meeting in December.