

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

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## TARIFFS AND TRADE

Limited Distribution

COUNCIL  
4 May 1988

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### EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY - PROHIBITION ON IMPORTS OF ALMONDS BY GREECE

#### Recourse to Article XXIII:2 by the United States

##### Communication from the United States

The following communication, dated 21 April 1988, has been received from the United States with the request that it be circulated to contracting parties and that the matter be placed on the agenda of the Council meeting scheduled for 4 May 1988.

The United States wishes to refer to the Contracting Parties, pursuant to Article XXIII:2 of the General Agreement, the matter of quantitative restrictions maintained by Greece on imports of almonds.

In November 1987, the Greek Ministry of Commerce banned the importation of almonds, instructing the Bank of Greece not to issue any additional import licenses for imports of almonds. The United States believes that this restriction contravenes, inter alia, the prohibition of Article XI of the General Agreement against maintenance of quantitative restrictions on imports made effective through quotas, import licenses, or other means. The United States also believes that this restriction nullifies or impairs trade concessions granted by the European Community.

This restriction has been the subject of many discussions between the United States and the European Community, including consultations held under Article XXIII:1 on 28 March 1988. These consultations have not resulted in a mutually satisfactory settlement of this issue.

Therefore, the United States requests the Council of Representatives at its meeting of 4 May 1988 to establish a panel to review this matter under Article XXIII:2 of the General Agreement.