

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

TARIFFS AND TRADE

L/6353

7 June 1988

Limited Distribution

COMMITTEE ON IMPORT LICENSING

Meeting of 21 April 1988

Note from the Chairman

1. The Committee held its twenty-first meeting on 21 April 1988. Mr. A.H. Mamdouh (Egypt) and Mr. K. Leifland (Sweden) were re-elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.
2. It was noted that the Agreement had been accepted by Mexico on 9 February 1988, entering into force on 10 March 1988.
3. The Committee took note of revised or corrected replies to the GATT Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures received from Australia, European Communities (Spain and Portugal), Finland, India, Japan, Mexico, Norway and Yugoslavia. These have been issued in the L/5640/Add.- series. The member from Poland presented information concerning new import regulations aiming at liberalizing and simplifying import procedures, issued on 1 April 1988, and said that this information would shortly be notified to GATT. The member from New Zealand recalled that from 1 July 1988 import licensing would end except for a range of goods covered by specific industry plans; most of these, in turn, would be removed from import licensing at specific dates over the period 1989/1990.
4. The Committee noted that agreement had been reached on the terms of reference and membership for the Panel established under Article 4:2 of the Agreement to examine the United States' complaint against India concerning its import licensing system on almonds. Australia reserved its right to make a submission to the Panel.¹
5. There was a discussion of the introduction of import monitoring and the suspension of import licensing by the European Communities on imports of apples from Chile.

¹A notification has subsequently been received from the United States announcing the terms of a mutually satisfactory solution to the dispute and the withdrawal of the complaint (LIC/15).

6. In respect of the Committee's work programme concerning the clarification of the term "import licensing" in Article 1:1 of the Agreement, it was agreed that further informal consultations would be useful.

7. Concerning the relationship of the Committee's work to the Uruguay Round, the member from the United States drew attention to proposals placed before the Committee for improvement of the Agreement and noted that these had also been submitted to the Negotiating Group on MTN Agreements and Arrangements. The United States' intention was to keep the Committee informed of initiatives in the Negotiating Group and to initiate discussions wherever possible. In this connection, the United States' delegation notified new proposals to the Negotiating Group and the Committee in MTN.GNG/NG8/W/29 and LIC/W/42 respectively. Members expressed interest in the presentation of the United States' proposals. Some members recalled that the Negotiating Group was the appropriate forum for negotiations on the future of the Agreement, although it was thought desirable to keep Committees informed of proposals introduced into the Negotiating Group.

8. The Committee agreed to hold its next meeting on Monday, 12 September 1988, at 3 p.m.