

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

L/6414

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TARIFFS AND TRADE

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON IMPORT LICENSING FOR 1988

1. This report, submitted under Article 5.5 of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures, sets out developments in the implementation and operation of the Agreement since the Committee's last report on 19 November 1987 (L/6257).
2. The Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures entered into force on 1 January 1980. As of 31 October 1988 there were twenty-seven signatories to the Agreement: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, the European Economic Community, Finland, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States and Yugoslavia. Argentina has signed the Agreement subject to ratification.
3. The following twenty-seven governments have observer status in the Committee on Import Licensing: Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Gabon, Ghana, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Malta, Peru, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Venezuela and Zaire. Two international organizations, IMF and UNCTAD, attend meetings of the Committee in an observer capacity.

Developments since the Committee's last report (L/6257)

4. Two meetings of the Committee have been held during 1988, on 21 April (LIC/M/21 and L/6353), and 12 September (LIC/M/22). The Committee has held twenty-two¹ regular meetings overall since the coming into force of the Agreement.

¹A note on a special meeting of the Committee held in April 1985 concerning the implementation of the Agreement with respect to developing countries is contained in document LIC/8.

5. Mexico notified its acceptance of the Agreement on 9 February 1988: the Agreement entered into force for Mexico on 10 March 1988 (LIC/11/Add.2).

6. During the reporting period, copies of publications containing information on new rules concerning import licensing procedures or lists of products subject to licensing requirements were made available to the Secretariat as and when published (LIC/3, Add.18 - 20). In addition, during 1988 so far, ten signatories have brought up to date the data supplied by them in response to the GATT Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures (annexed to L/5640/Rev.4). The current status of replies to the questionnaire by signatories (issued as addenda to L/5640) is annexed.

7. At the twenty-first and twenty-second meetings, the Committee continued its work programme of discussion of the definition of "import licensing" contained in Article 1.1. It was agreed that the Secretariat would undertake background work concerning other terms contained in Articles 1.8, 3(h), 3(j), 3(k) and 3(l) of the Agreement.

8. At the twenty-first meeting, the Committee took note of the establishment of a Panel under Article 4.2 of the Agreement to examine the consistency with the Agreement of one Party's licensing procedures as applied to almond imports. Subsequently, at the twenty-second meeting, the Committee took note that the complaint which had given rise to the Panel had been withdrawn. A discussion was also held concerning the import licensing system applied to imports of apples into one Party.

9. The Committee continued its discussion of the relationship of its work to the Uruguay Round. A number of proposals for improvement of the Agreement were submitted by one Party both to the Committee and to the Negotiating Group on MTN Agreements and Arrangements. Members generally welcomed these proposals although one Party warned against using the Committee as an "alternative" forum for negotiations. However, it was generally accepted that the Committee should be kept informed of proposals introduced into the Negotiating Group, as well as informing the Negotiating Group of relevant work done in the Committee.

ANNEXAGREEMENT ON IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURESStatus of replies to GATT Questionnaire by Signatories

<u>Signatory</u>	<u>Document no.</u>	<u>Date of most recent reply</u>
Argentina	L/5640/Add.27 + Corr.1	24.10.86
Australia	Add.13/Rev.3	07.09.88
Austria	Add.35 + Corr.1	14.07.87
Canada	Add.10/Rev.2 + Suppl.1	25.05.87
Chile	Add.8/Rev.1 + Suppl.1 + 2	19.06.87
Czechoslovakia	Add.38	27.01.87
Egypt	Add.37 + Corr.1	24.10.86
EEC	Add.21/Rev.1 + Suppl.1-3	08.02.88
Finland	Add.6 + Corr.1 + 2	08.01.88
Hong Kong	Add.36/Rev.1	06.10.87
Hungary	Add.12	16.11.84
India	Add.7/Rev.2/Corr.1	15.01.88
Japan	Add.28 + Suppl.1	18.04.88
Mexico	Add.41 + Corr.1	20.10.87
New Zealand	Add.18/Rev.1	08.10.87
Nigeria	...	
Norway	Add.42	08.01.88
Pakistan	Add.25 + Suppl.1	13.10.86
Philippines	Add.26/Rev.2	08.10.87
Poland	Add.39/Rev.1	23.09.88
Romania	Add.32	17.04.86
Singapore	Add.33/Rev.1	23.08.88
South Africa	Add.17/Rev.2	10.11.86
Sweden	Add.14/Rev.2	07.10.87
Switzerland	Add.19	05.07.85
United States	Add.40 + Suppl.1 + 2	11.10.88
Yugoslavia	Add.20/Rev.2	27.04.88