

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

L/6608

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## TARIFFS AND TRADE

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### REPORT (1989) OF THE COMMITTEE ON IMPORT LICENSING

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 31 October 1988 (L/6414).
2. The Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures entered into force on 1 January 1980. As of 30 November 1989 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

4. Three meetings of the Committee have been held during 1989, on 3 March (LIC/M/23 and L/6496), on 21 September (LIC/M/24 and L/6591), and on 23 November (LIC/M/25). The Committee has held 25 regular meetings since the Agreement came into force.<sup>1</sup>
5. 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.21, 22 and 23). In addition,

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<sup>1</sup>A 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.

fifteen 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.5). The current status of replies to the questionnaire by signatories (issued as addenda to L/5640) is annexed.

6. At the twenty-third meeting, the Committee continued its work programme on the definition of "import licensing" and other matters relating to terminology in Article 1.1. The Committee also continued its discussion of the relationship of its work to the Uruguay Round.

7. At the twenty-fourth meeting, a proposal for improving the Agreement was introduced by two Parties (LIC/W/49). The proposal was introduced at the same time in the Negotiating Group on MTN Agreements and Arrangements. Members generally welcomed the proposal as a positive contribution. It was an improvement over earlier proposals and a constructive basis for discussion. At the twenty-fifth meeting, a revised version of the proposal was introduced and discussed (LIC/W/49/Rev.1).

8. At the twenty-fifth meeting, the Committee carried out the fifth biennial review of the Agreement.

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, 2 and 3	16.11.89
Australia	Add.13/Rev.4	31.10.89
Austria	Add.35 + Corr.1	14.07.87
Canada	Add.10/Rev.2 + Suppl.1	25.05.87
Chile	Add.8/Rev.1 + Suppl.1-3	15.06.89
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/Rev.1 + Suppl.1	18.10.89
Hong Kong	Add.36/Rev.3	04.09.89
Hungary	Add.12/Rev.1 and Suppl.1	24.05.89
India	Add.7/Rev.3	27.01.89
Japan	Add.28 + Suppl.1 + Corr.1	18.04.88
Mexico	Add.41 + Corr.1	20.10.87
New Zealand	Add.18/Rev.1	08.10.87
Nigeria	...	
Norway	Add.2/Rev.1	29.09.89
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/Rev.1	21.11.89
Singapore	Add.33/Rev.1 + Suppl.1	14.06.89
South Africa	Add.17/Rev.3	10.10.89
Sweden	Add.14/Rev.3	19.10.89
Switzerland	Add.19/Rev.1	09.10.89
United States	Add.40 + Suppl.1 + 2	11.10.88
Yugoslavia	Add.20/Rev.2 + Suppl.1	03.05.89