

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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ACCESSION OF GUATEMALA

Questions and Replies to the Memorandum on Foreign Trade Régime (L/6400)

Addendum

Replies to questions Nos. 68 and 94 are reproduced below

4.4.3 Consular Fees

68. What is the relation between the fees listed in this section and the actual cost of processing imports, i.e. the cost of services rendered as provided for in Article VIII?

Reply

The consular fees are very low and do not vary according to the volume or value of imports; consequently, the larger the imports, the smaller the incidence of the fees on their c.i.f. value, so that they cannot be an indirect form of protection of domestic products nor a fiscal levy applied to imports or exports.

4.5.2 Prohibitions

94. In what way are the importation of flour, fruit and flowers, flower bulbs and tubers, Christmas trees, animal products and by-products, sand, confetti, books, potatoes, salt, seeds, or wheat "likely to affect the health of the population, national security, or the country's natural resources ..."?

Reply

Most of the products listed in Annex 5 to document L/6400 containing import prohibitions are included on grounds of human, plant and animal health, national security or public morals; however, some of the products included in the Annex come under other criteria, such as temporary measures to encourage production, usually adopted on account of the socio-economic problems of the domestic structure of Guatemalan agriculture as mentioned in the reply to Question No. 75.

Some of the products contained in the prohibited list are not of a general nature but refer to specific cases. This is true in the case of

books, the importation of which is restricted solely in the case of pornographic works; flour, where the prohibition is confined to imports from countries which import wheat for its manufacture as well as flour manufactured on the basis of non-special soft wheats; and fruit and flowers of which the importation is prohibited only in the case of a single country which involves particular drawbacks.

In other cases, such as sand and used tyres, the aim is to avoid the risk that the products may carry larvae, eggs or some other element facilitating the transmission of diseases for persons, animals or plants.