

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS FOR PROTECTIVE PURPOSES

Statement by the Turkish Delegation
on 9 December 1954 to Sub-Group I-C

In proposing the prohibition of quantitative restrictions designed to protect national agricultural programmes (cf. L/282), the Turkish delegation had the following considerations in mind.

1. It is obvious that the standard of living in industrialized countries and that prevalent in agricultural countries have not the same structure or the same resistance power. Indeed, the standard of living in agricultural countries depends solely on a few products of the soil. For that reason, the consequences of restrictions imposed on agricultural products and manufactured goods cannot really be compared, and certainly do not have the same unfavourable repercussions from an economic and social standpoint.
2. Restrictions imposed on agricultural products are incompatible with the aims of the General Agreement, whose main purpose is to raise the standard of living in countries which are not yet fully developed. The prohibition of such restrictions would facilitate the progressive development of such countries.
3. As prices of agricultural products are established in the world markets by the consumers themselves, the agricultural countries have no possibility of supporting them or of strengthening their export markets. This puts them in a position of inferiority and leads to a sort of discrimination against agricultural products. That explains why the absence of quantitative restrictions on agricultural products would tend to confer on the producing countries certain advantages likely to counterbalance the said discrimination.
4. By abolishing restrictions on agricultural products, the General Agreement would give the underdeveloped countries exporting such products the possibility of securing their share of international trade through the purchasing power gained by agricultural exports. Besides being a boon for the under-developed countries, such a result would also be beneficial for the industrial countries, as it would help them to dispose of their goods, and thus to improve their economic situation and achieve productive full employment.

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