

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.AG/W/53
21 April 1970

Limited Distribution

Agriculture Committee

NON-TARIFF BARRIER NOTIFICATIONS

Note by Secretariat

1. Contracting parties have been requested to submit notifications of non-tariff barriers facing their exports of agricultural products (COM.AG/14, paragraph 8(d)). The Committee has also agreed to deal with notifications transferred to the Agriculture Committee by the Industrial Committee in the context of this exercise (COM.AG/17, paragraph 2).
2. Notifications have been received to date from Australia, Canada, Czechoslovakia, the European Communities, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Swaziland, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States and Yugoslavia. As stated by the European Communities, Japan and New Zealand, their notifications relate only to agricultural products outside the eight sectors already examined by the Committee. The most recent list of notifications transferred from the Industrial Committee is contained in COM.IND/12/Rev.2.
3. At its meeting of January 1970 the Committee set up four Working Groups dealing, respectively, with:
 - Group 1: measures which affect exports
 - Group 2: measures which affect imports
 - Group 3: measures which affect production
 - Group 4: other relevant measures

and agreed that all notifications received should be referred for preliminary examination to the relevant Working Group, notifications not falling within the purview of other Groups being referred to Group 4 (L/3320, paragraph 10).

Working Group 1

4. The four non-tariff barrier notifications relating to export measures have been reproduced in COM.AG/W/48. Working Group 1 has decided to examine these at its next meeting to allow any delegations wishing to make further notifications the time to do so.

Working Group 2

5. Notifications of quantitative restrictions have been incorporated in the table annexed to the basic document for the Joint Working Group on Import Restrictions, (L/3377 and addenda), when these are maintained by countries covered by that exercise. Other notifications relating to quantitative restrictions will be reproduced in COM.AG/W/54.

6. Notifications of variable levies have been used in drawing up the list of levies on products in Chapters 1-24 of the Brussels Nomenclature contained in COM.AG/W/47, which also reproduces notifications relating to levies transferred from the Industrial Committee.

Working Group 3

7. No notifications relating directly to production measures have been received.

Working Group 4

8. Notifications of "other" non-tariff barriers will be circulated in COM.AG/W/49. These notifications have been grouped under the following headings:

- A. Health and Sanitary Regulations
- B. Marketing Standards
- C. Packing and Labelling Regulations
- D. Customs and Administrative Procedures (including valuation)
- E. Miscellaneous Charges and Taxes
- F. Prior Deposits
- G. Other

Other points

9. All delegations submitting notifications make the point that the list of restrictions submitted is not exhaustive and reserve the right to make additional notifications in the future. The following specific points were also made:

Canada

The matrix of non-tariff barriers which may result from different national grading, health or safety standards is immense. It is suggested that the Committee take account of the work in the OMD on grading and in the Codex Alimentarius Commission on health and food standards, since these fora have done useful work in this area and are, in our view, well equipped to deal with standards problems of a technical nature. The Health and Safety Standards notified give some indication of the trade effects of these barriers on a wide range of agricultural products.

United Kingdom

1. The United Kingdom also reserves the right to take part in any discussions about practices which may not have been included in its list of notifications.

2. Some quantitative restrictions or prohibitions of imports have been specifically listed, but it is not claimed that the list is exhaustive.
3. The practices of State-trading countries have not been listed at this stage.
4. There are various non-tariff barriers operated by developing countries which affect United Kingdom trade, but in the main these have not been listed at present.
5. These notifications are made without prejudice to the question of the appropriate GATT forum in which they should be considered.

United States

Without prejudice to subsequent consideration of subsidies in the GATT, the United States has not included subsidies and rebates in the country inventories. It may wish to propose a general review of subsidy schemes or tax advantages granted producers, or it may wish to discuss individual countries' subsidies granted for specific products. A number of countries give subsidies and rebates for various agricultural products and the effect on trade in some cases is substantial.