GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Committee on Trade and Development

IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AFFECTING PRODUCTS NOTIFIED TO COMMITTEE III AS BEING OF EXPORT INTEREST TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Reports by Governments

At their twenty-third session, the CONTRACTING PARTIES invited governments of developed countries applying import restrictions on products notified to Committee III as being of export interest to less-developed countries to give immediate consideration to the elimination of these restrictions and to report by June 1966 on compliance. (Cf. SR.23/10 pages 155-157, cf. also COM.TD/24, pages 4 and 5 for subsequent discussion in the Committee on Trade and Development).

Up to date reports in response to this invitation have been received from the Governments of Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. The substantive parts of these reports are reproduced below.

SWITZERLAND

Switzerland does not apply any import restrictions other than those authorized under the Declaration of 22 November 1958 concerning the Provisional Accession of the Swiss Confederation to the General Agreement. These restrictions have been notified regularly in the context of the annual reports that Switzerland was required to furnish.

For this reason we consider that these restrictions are not inconsistent with the provisions of the GATT and do not constitute residual restrictions within the terms of the Ministerial Conclusions and Resolutions of 1963.

UNITED KINGDOM

The Government of the United Kingdom has engaged in discussions within the Group on Residual Restrictions on the maintenance of import restrictions affecting products under review. In the case of the United Kingdom the relevant items are bananas, cigars, certain citrus products and jute manufactures.
In the light of the review requested, the situation is that, in the case of the first three items, restrictions are maintained in the interests of certain less-developed countries. On jute goods no change in licensing arrangements is contemplated at present. However, these restrictions have been eased in recent years, and it is the United Kingdom's intention that the current import arrangements should be further reviewed in 1967.

UNITED STATES

The United States Government, ... has examined its import restrictions on the commodities listed in COM.TD/W/19 and has concluded they cannot be eliminated in the near future. As the United States delegate stated in the plenary discussions on this subject (SR.23/10), these restrictions are consistent with the terms on which the United States is applying the General Agreement. None of them fall within the purview of the 1963 Ministerial Conclusions, although they are subject to careful examination and consultation in the GATT in a different context.