GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Ninth Session of the Contracting Parties

Three Complaints settled

The Contracting Parties have been informed of the settlement of three complaints which are included in the agenda of the Ninth Session.

**Belgian Dollar Import Restrictions.** This complaint, originally placed on the agenda of the Seventh Session of the Contracting Parties in 1951 at the request of Canada and the United States, concerned discrimination by Belgium against certain dollar goods in order to mitigate the damaging effects of abnormal exchange conditions. At this Session, M. Max Suetens (Belgium) pointed out that the first step towards removing these restrictions had been taken at the beginning of 1953. The final step had now been taken, and he was able to announce that since May 1954 Belgium had put an end to all exchange restrictions on goods imported from the dollar area.

**Belgian Family Allowances.** This complaint, originally made by Norway and Denmark, later joined by Austria, Germany, Italy, Finland and Canada, concerned a special tax levied, in certain circumstances, on products imported by the public authorities. At this Session, M. Max Suetens (Belgium) reported that in accordance with the undertaking given at the Eighth Session, the Belgian government had passed a law suppressing the tax. This law entered into force on 6 March 1954.

**French Statistical Tax on Imports and Exports.** This complaint, made by the United States at the Eighth Session, concerned a French ad valorem tax which was levied on all imports and exports. M. André Philip (France) reported that the tax in question had been suspended from 1 October to the end of 1954 and that the French government intended to make the suspension permanent in character and to introduce a modification into the national budget for 1955, accordingly.

Commenting on the settlement of these complaints the Chairman said that this was a good illustration of the value of the GATT for settling disputes that arose out of the maintenance of obligations under the Agreement and he stressed the value of the "complaints procedure" in relation to the forthcoming review of the Agreement.

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