GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE
Ninth Session of the Contracting Parties

Settlement of Complaint concerning Greek Tax and Customs Duty Changes

Earlier in the Ninth Session, on 5 November, the government of Italy complained that the government of Greece had made certain changes in the application of the Greek luxury tax and the Greek import tariff which appeared to be contrary to the obligations of Greece under the General Agreement. The Italian representative, M. Eugenio Anzilotti, stated that the Italian complaint referred, firstly, to the imposition of a luxury tax on certain imported products of artificial textile fibres and manufactures, whereas the domestic production was exempt. Secondly, the complaint referred to ad valorem minimum duties which had been established for certain products, namely textiles and cutlery, although the tariff rates on these items were bound against increase under the Agreement. Thirdly, it was stated that the ad valorem tariff rate on spectacles, which was bound under the Agreement, had been increased. The representatives of Austria, France and the United Kingdom stated that they were also concerned with various aspects of the Italian complaint.

Consultations have been held between the Italian and Greek delegations and the delegate of Italy, M. Anzilotti, and the delegate of Greece, M. D. Bitsios, have informed the Contracting Parties that agreement has been reached on all the matters raised by the government of Italy. The Chairman of the Contracting Parties stated that he regarded the complaint as being satisfactorily settled and emphasized the value of the GATT forum and consultation procedures in circumstances of this kind.

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