GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Steps towards the Abolition of the French Special Compensatory Tax on Imports

At the Ninth Session of the Contracting Parties the French Government gave an undertaking that they would remove as soon as possible a special compensatory tax levied on certain imported goods. (This tax, which was introduced in April 1954, is levied on products which have recently been liberated from quantitative restrictions when imported from member countries of the OEEC). The Contracting Parties held that this tax constituted a breach of France's obligations under the GATT. The level of the tax has already been reduced on a number of products, on several occasions.

The French Government have now informed the Contracting Parties that by a Decree published in the French Journal Officiel, 22 June, the tax has been abolished on a list of products comprising about 40 tariff items, and on a further list of about 30 products the tax has been reduced from the former rates of 15 per cent, 11 per cent or 10 per cent to the new rate of 7 per cent.

The French Government has undertaken to report again to the Contracting Parties by 1 September, prior to the Tenth Session, on the steps taken towards abolishing this tax on imports.

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