The Intersessional Committee of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade met at Geneva from 14 April to 2 May 1958. The Committee was composed of the full GATT membership of thirty-seven countries. The Chairman was Mr. L.K. Jha, India, who is Chairman of the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement.

The Intersessional Committee resumed the discussion which had been initiated by the Contracting Parties in 1957, on the restrictions on imports still maintained by the Federal German Government, following the earlier decision that the Federal Government is no longer entitled under the General Agreement to maintain import restrictions for balance-of-payments reasons.

Most of the contracting parties felt there was no justification under GATT for Germany's remaining import restrictions or for their discriminatory application. They did not accept the German contention that, in accordance with the Torquay Protocol, the Federal Republic is entitled to restrict imports of certain agricultural products under the Agricultural Marketing Laws. It was pointed out that the maintenance of this situation nullifies and impairs the benefits which they might expect to follow from the acceptance by the Federal Republic of the obligations of the General Agreement and jeopardizes the attainment of the objectives of the Agreement.

The Intersessional Committee expressed its regret that the Federal Government had not considered it possible so far to eliminate its remaining import restrictions and urged the Federal Republic to reconsider its position on this matter. The Committee also requested the Federal Government to report to the Thirteenth Session on what action it has taken to eliminate the remaining import restrictions. If on re-consideration the Government of the Federal Republic continues to believe that there are special reasons why it cannot eliminate certain of the import restrictions, it should make use of the appropriate procedures to reconcile its position with the provisions of the General Agreement.

The Committee left for consideration at the Thirteenth Session the question of possible further action which contracting parties might take with regard to this subject.

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