DERESTRICTION OF DOCUMENTS

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The system for derestriciton of documents works presently as follows (see document GATT/CP.4/4 & SR.4):

Documents pertaining to sessions are derestricted 90 days after the close of the session.

Documents in the continuous series, GATT/CP/, are derestricted on 31 March following the calendar year in which they were issued.

In both cases, exception is made of documents originally classified "Secret", working party and working documents, summary records and documents which any contracting party requests the Executive Secretary to continue to classify as restricted.

Under this arrangement, documents produced in the first months of the year are subject to a very long period of restriction and it might be well to remedy this by derestricting documents twice a year instead. Documents of the sessions could also be included in such an arrangement, as the difference between the present ninety day period and a twice yearly derestriciton would probably not in practice be very great. If it were wished to derestricit any particular document of a session or the regular series earlier, a special notice could be issued, as has already been done in the past.

2. In the documents derestrictions that occurred on 1 December 1949, 1 July 1950 and 31 March 1951, certain documents were excepted and still retain a restricted status. It is suggested that the Contracting Parties may wish to consider whether their restriction is still necessary and if not, whether to include them in a list for derestriciton. These documents are the following:

Documents GATT/CP.3/3 & Add, 22, 43-concerning S. African import restrictions.
Documents GATT/CP.3/20 & Add, 36, 54, 60 & Rev & Add, 64, 65, 73 & Rev, & Corr, and 85-concerning applications under Article XVIII.
GATT/CP.3/61 - Chilean request regarding nitrate subsidy.
GATT/CP/62 - Statements by contracting parties on import restrictions.
3. It is suggested that the Contracting Parties may wish to consider the following arrangements:

Documents produced up to 31 December of each year to be derestricted on the following 31 March.

Documents produced up to 30 June of each year to be derestricted on 30 September following.

On 30 September 1951 derestrict the following documents except for any specially notified by a contracting party:

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Those documents listed in paragraph 2 which the Contracting Parties have agreed to derestrict.

It is, of course, understood that the same overriding limitations on derestraction (listed in paragraph 1) would continue to apply.