Intersessional Committee

United Kingdom Import Restrictions

and

Procedures for dealing with cases of Intensification

As recorded in GATT/IC/SR.2, the following points of agreement were reached at the meeting of the Intersessional Committee on 14-15 January:

(i) The contention of the United Kingdom Government that the import restrictions announced in November 1951 did not constitute a substantial intensification requiring consultation under Article XII:4(b), raised important and difficult questions of interpretation on which it would be difficult for the Committee to pronounce at this session. Accordingly, and having regard to the facts that (1) discussions had taken place or were in progress through the O.E.E.C. with the European countries principally affected, and (2) the Contracting Parties would, at their Seventh Session, be entering into consultations with the United Kingdom under Article XIV:1(g), any decision on the issues involved in the United Kingdom contention should be deferred for further consideration, if necessary, at the Seventh Session; provided, however, that if other contracting parties in the meantime introduce an intensification of their import restrictions, thereby raising similar questions regarding consultations under Article XII:4(b), the matter could be considered again by the Committee.

(ii) In order to facilitate the task of the Chairman and the Executive Secretary, the Committee recommends that any contracting party intensifying its import restrictions should furnish detailed information promptly to the Executive Secretary. This information should be circulated immediately to the contracting parties and upon the basis of this information the Chairman and the Executive Secretary should determine whether there is a prima facie case for initiation of consultations by the Contracting Parties under Article XII:4(b).

(iii) In the event that the Chairman and the Executive Secretary find that there is a prima facie case for initiation of consultations, the question will be referred to the meeting of the Intersessional Committee to be convened towards the end of February or, in the event of action taken after that date, to the meeting of the Intersessional Committee which will be held six weeks before the Seventh Session of the Contracting Parties.
(iv) Notwithstanding (iii), in the event of an intensification of import restrictions by a contracting party of such a nature as to affect seriously the trade of contracting parties, the Chairman will convene a special meeting of the Intersessional Committee to consider the matter.