URUGUAYAN RECURSE TO ARTICLE XXIII

Action Taken by Contracting Parties in Compliance with the Recommendations of 16 November 1962

NORWAY

The following communication, dated 5 March 1963, has been received from the Government of Norway:

"I have the honour to refer to document L/1923 containing the report of the Panel on Uruguayan Recourse to Article XXIII of the General Agreement. The CONTRACTING PARTIES adopted the report and the recommendations therein at their twentieth session. I have been instructed by the Norwegian authorities to forward the following comments as regards the report's conclusions in Annex L - Norway.

"It will be remembered that Norway's quantitative import restrictions until the autumn of 1961 were based on Article XII of the General Agreement. The Norwegian Government disinvoked Article XII in October 1961, with the result that the status of those import restrictions which were still maintained was changed. At the nineteenth session the Norwegian delegation made a statement as regards the residual import restrictions, whereby the CONTRACTING PARTIES were informed that the Norwegian Government had initiated a study on whether any of the restrictions at present in force in the agricultural sector could be considered to be consistent with the General Agreement (SR.19/8, page 105).

"The study referred to is undertaken by an inter-governmental committee. Its work is not yet completed, but the Committee is expected to submit its final report in the course of this spring. On the basis of the findings of the Committee, the Norwegian Government will take a position as to possible changes in the import system for agricultural goods.

"Acting under instructions, I would, however, avail myself of this opportunity to make the following comments with reference to the two groups of products where Uruguay has made recourse to Article XXIII as concerns the import system in Norway.

"Cereals

"The Panel 'considers that in respect of the State trading measure' ..., 'having regard to the nature of the measures and the interest which Uruguay has in the products in question, there are a priori grounds for assuming that they could have an adverse effect on Uruguay's exports'.

/."
At the twentieth session the Norwegian delegation stated that the import monopoly - the State Grain Corporation - is an importer on a large scale and is guided solely by commercial considerations in its import policy. During the consultations it was revealed that the Corporation had not made any purchases from Uruguay because no offers had been received. Referring to the Panel's conclusions the State Grain Corporation re-states its interest in buying cereals, particularly wheat, from Uruguay, but in spite of several efforts, no offers have been received and the results have therefore been negative. The latest attempts to get offers on Uruguayan wheat were made in November/December 1962.

"Meat"

"In addition to the above general comments I would like to re-iterate the statements made by the Norwegian representative during the consultations with Uruguay, that the veterinary provisions in force in Norway are fully compatible with the General Agreement.

"The Norwegian authorities are at any time willing to discuss with the representatives of the Uruguayan authorities, means whereby Uruguay's exports to Norway of these products could be promoted."