INFORMATION FOR THIRD REPORT UNDER ARTICLE XIV:1 (g)

FRANCE

Communication dated 20 August 1952 in response to GATT/CP/132

Since it transmitted to the secretariat its answer to Questionnaire GATT/CP/89, the French Government has had to make a number of modifications in its system of import quantitative restrictions.

The French Government has already submitted two informational notes which have been circulated to the contracting parties under reference GATT/CP/144 and GATT/CP/144 Add.1. These fairly brief notes call for a number of supplementary information which are given hereafter.

It is recalled that on 4 February 1952 the French Government had to partly suspend OEEC liberalization measures. Then those measures had to be completely suspended on 19 February 1952.

At the same time the French Government, as a general rule, ceased delivering import licences in the ex-freed sector. However, provisions had been made in order to authorize imports of goods en route or covered by regular contracts concluded prior to the suspension of liberalization measures.

Furthermore, the French Government reserved the right to issue some further import licences in cases of urgent necessity and to license imports of perishable seasonal goods or goods requiring continuing marketing.

Lastly the provisional suspension of trade liberalization measures applied only to imports into metropolitan France and Algeria and therefore the system of imports into the other territories of the French Union was in no way modified.

Subsequently quarterly import programmes were drawn up for the second and third quarters of 1952. Such programmes bear evidence of the willingness of the French Government to comply with the traditional pattern of foreign trade in a normal base year subject, of course, to the indispensable import reductions.

The above-mentioned emergency measures, which were dictated only by financial considerations, do not in any way mean that the French Government has given up its intra-European trade policy.

1952 PROGRAMMES

The import programmes for 1952 concern essentially:
1) dollar goods,

2) imports from EPU countries falling within one of the following categories:
   a) "essential" goods
   b) "non-essential" goods which had previously been liberalized

3) goods originating in or imported from non-dollar, non-EPU countries with which France had not concluded any commercial agreements involving lists of items (Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Japan, Peru, Chile, Uruguay, etc...)

DOLLAR PROGRAMME:

The amount involved in the 1951-1952 dollar import programme is substantially lower than that of 1950-1951. This reduction results in part from the shortage of dollars which France has suffered during the first eight months of the year 1951-1952.

On the other hand, it should be noted that the relative improvement in dollar resources brought about by the reduction of imports has not led the French Government, when the situation of France within EPU became critical, to reallocate for dollar imports a more or less important share of purchases previously effected in EPU countries. In fact, the French Government is still of the opinion that so long as it is dependent upon American aid it is bound to limit its dollar imports exclusively to essential goods which cannot be supplied by non-dollar countries.

Nevertheless, the French Government has endeavoured, as it did last year, to maintain the traditional trade channels within the dollar countries other than the United States, as indicated above, in particular through bilateral financial and trade arrangements.

EPU PROGRAMME

As previously indicated, imports from EPU countries have had to be very substantially reduced. However, in drawing up its programme of imports from EPU countries, France has endeavoured to place all its EPU partners on a footing of equality. Its anxiety to avoid any discrimination was reflected in the fixing of global quotas for essential goods and in the observance of the pattern of trade rule as regards non-essential goods.

OTHER IMPORT PROGRAMMES

In 1952 no modification was made in existing rules concerning the framing of import programmes for goods originating in and imported from non-dollar, non-EPU countries with which France has not concluded trade agreements involving lists of items.
ISSUING OF LICENCES

The new procedure relating to the issuing of import licences has been outlined in a notice to importers published in the Journal Officiel of the French Republic of 9 July 1952.

Within the currency quotas allocated for the third quarter of 1952 import licences shall be granted:

1) in the case of certain goods, to trade groups or assimilated bodies exclusively;

2) in the case of other goods in respect of which individual imports are permitted, either under the procedure whereby requests are dealt with as they come in, or under the procedure of simultaneous examination.

Furthermore, nothing has been altered as regards the issuance of import licences for goods which have not been liberalized.

Lastly, a number of items may be imported under the import authorisation declaration system.

A list of goods for which liberalization measures have been suspended is given below under the various categories listed above,

Items to be imported by trade groups or assimilated bodies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tariff item number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>61 A</td>
<td>Bulbs and tubers Groupement national interprofessionnel de production et d'utilisation des semences, graines et plants, 80, rue de Grenelle, PARIS (7e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>Tea Groupement d'achat du t.i.; 10, rue Gaston-Paymal, Clichy-la-Garenne (Seine), ou importateurs agissant pour sont compte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>290</td>
<td>Iron ore Ferimport, groupement mobilisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>292</td>
<td>Manganese ore Société du manganèse, groupement mobilisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>728 &amp; 729</td>
<td>Raw hides and skins Groupement d'importation des cuirs et peaux bruts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>872</td>
<td>Wool in the mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>873</td>
<td>Fine hair Groupement d'importation et de répartition de la laine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tariff item number

879  Ramie
      Groupement d'importation et de répartition du lin

1310 Copper
      Groupement d'importation et de répartition des métaux

Items to be imported under licences, requests for which are dealt with as they come in

Tariff item number

1 B & 13 D  Horses for slaughter and for horse meat
ex 3 & 13 A  Bovine cattle and meat of bovine cattle
ex 3, 4, ex 5 & ex 6  Live animals for breeding purposes
6 & 13 C  Swine and meat of swine (pork), not including bason
ex 4 & 13 B  Sheep and lambs, mutton and lamb
14  Edible offals
22  Meat, salted and dried
27 B  Snails
33 A  Eggs in the shell, fresh or preserved
33 B  Whole eggs, not in the shell
35  Human hair, unworked
36  Horse hair, unworked
37  Pigs' bristles, hair
38  Guts, bladders and stomachs of animals
42  Feathers
39 & 43  Bones and animal waste, unworked
44 & 45  Animal horns, antlers and hooves
47 to 50  Tortoise shell, shells, empty, whale bone, coral
52  Animal glands and organs, fresh
ex 69 A  Haricots for sowing
ex 69 D  Peas for sowing
ex 75 A  Bitter almonds for the manufacture of almond oil
112 b, c, e, o, p  Seeds of copra, palm kernel, castor, illipe, karite
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tariff item number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>113 B, C, D, E</td>
<td>Seeds for sowing, other than beet root seeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>119 E</td>
<td>Fruit kernels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126 &amp; 158</td>
<td>Gums and waxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128 A</td>
<td>Sea weed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>131</td>
<td>Vegetable materials used for esparto work, wicker-work and basket-ware</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>