GATT

SURVEY OF DEVELOPMENTS

IN

COMMERCIAL POLICY

July-December 1977

No. 1

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Centre William Rappard, Rue de Lausanne 154, 1211 Geneva 21
PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED IN THE SURVEY

Asia Research Bulletin
   Asia Research Pte. Ltd., Singapore

Commerce America
   US Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C.

East-West Fortnightly Bulletin of Business
   Developments with the USSR, Other CMEA Countries and Yugoslavia
   East-West SPRL, Brussels

European Report
   Société d'Éditions Économiques Mondiales, Brussels

Far Eastern Economic Review
   Far Eastern Economic Review Ltd., Hong Kong

Federal Register
   National Archives of the United States, Washington, D.C.

Moniteur du Commerce International
   Centre français du commerce extérieur, Paris

Nachrichten für Aussenhandel
   Bundesstelle für Aussenhandelsinformationen, Cologne

Official Journal of the European Communities
   Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg

Tariffs & Trade
   Wall Street Station, New York, N.Y.

Trade and Industry
   Department of Trade and Industry, London

United States International Trade Commission Publication
   United States International Trade Commission, Washington, D.C.

UT Sidste Nyt
   Udenrigsministeriets tidsskrift for udenrigsøkonomi, Copenhagen

In addition various newspapers have been used. GATT documents are referred to by their symbol only.
SURVEY OF DEVELOPMENTS IN COMMERCIAL POLICY
JULY-DECEMBER 1977

INTRODUCTION

This survey of developments in commercial policy is a review, prepared by the GATT secretariat under its own responsibility, of actions or decisions taken in the area of commercial policy during the reference period, in various countries. It includes contracting parties to GATT as well as non-contracting parties.

The intention is to publish such surveys regularly, three or four times a year.

This survey is based on information available to the secretariat in the form of GATT documents and various published sources. It covers the introduction of new trade measures including, in some instances, those of a provisional or interim character, or their abolition, as well as substantial changes in existing measures; it also covers certain types of investigation. The secretariat has endeavoured to include all measures of significant trade interest but the coverage may not necessarily be exhaustive or uniform. The coverage of measures taken by some countries is more extensive than that of others because of the availability of information.

The secretariat would welcome its attention being drawn to any errors or significant omissions. Where the information derives from unofficial sources, such as newspapers, the secretariat has made efforts to check the facts with official sources. The secretariat would appreciate any help that delegations can give in the preparation of future surveys to make sure that they are as timely and accurate as possible.

Two copies of this survey are being sent to each contracting party. Additional copies are available upon request.

This survey relates inter alia to:
- import duties;
- tariff quotas;
- anti-dumping and anti-subsidy measures;
- import taxes and surcharges;
- prior import deposits;
- quantitative import restrictions;
- export restraints;
- emergency actions.

The information is furnished country by country as follows:

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ALGERIA

Import quotas: additional goods

The Algerian "Journal Officiel" dated 4 December 1977 published a decree announcing the inclusion of a further wide range of items on the list of goods subject to import quotas.


ARGENTINA

Reductions of import duties

The Argentine Ministry of Economy Resolutions Nos. 520 and 521 of 24 June 1977 list a large number of goods falling under the tariff chapters 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 28, 35, 69, 73, 84, 85 and 92, whose rates of duty have been reduced.

The Argentine Ministry of Economy, in its Resolution No. 867 of 23 September 1977, also reduced the tariff rates on a large number of items in chapters 84 and 85 (machinery, mechanical and electrical equipment) of the Argentine customs tariff. The tariff rates, which varied previously between 10 per cent and 95 per cent, have been reduced to vary between 5 per cent and 65 per cent. Further tariff reductions were announced on a large number of items in Resolutions Nos. 1020, 1021, 1022 and 1046 (Boletin Oficial of 3 and 4 November 1977).


Tariffs have also been reduced for the following products:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Products</th>
<th>Old rate per cent</th>
<th>New rate per cent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dairy products</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husked rice</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edible oils</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margarine</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocoa and cocoa products</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit purée and marmalade</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayonnaise</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentrates of soup and bouillon</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral water</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple juice</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethyl alcohol (wine)</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethyl alcohol (molasses)</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Guia Practica para el Importador y Exportador.
UT Sidste Nyt 41/77.
ARGENTINA (cont'd)

Import duties: increase

Ministry of Economy Resolution 1168 of 1 December 1977 raised import duties previously at 5 per cent and 10 per cent by five percentage points from 8 December 1977.


Export duties suspension: cotton

Duties on cotton exports from Argentina have been suspended until March 1978.


Import liberalizations

By resolutions of 16 June, 5 September and 5 October 1977, the Argentine authorities liberalized the importation of certain items, including tomatoes, strawberries, certain spirits and liqueurs, certain skins, and tractors.


Lifting of import prohibitions and reduction of import duty on cigarettes

By a resolution of 16 June 1977, the Argentine authorities lifted the import suspension for cigarettes under tariff number 24.02.02.00, which had been introduced by a resolution of 29 June 1976.

Also the import duty on cigarettes was reduced from the previous level of 85 per cent to 5 per cent, on the c.i.f. value.

Deutches Handelsarchiv, Heft, 22, 1977.

Financing of goods: liberalization

The percentage of the total payments f.o.b. for goods in general that could be made in cash was increased to 50 per cent on 21 January 1977. The terms of payment were further liberalized on 17 March 1977.

In respect of capital goods, full payment in cash was made possible as from 6 April 1977, where the interested parties have their resources for this purpose.

Source: BOP/183.
ARGENTINA (cont'd)

Foreign trade investment bond: suspension

As from 4 July 1977, the system concerning the foreign trade investment bond was suspended. Under this system, bonds had to be established with contributions from importers in the form of charges in pesos in adjustable accounts equivalent to 100 per cent of the f.o.b. value, and these had to be retained until the goods had been paid for.

Source: BOP/183.

Export prefinancing: capital goods and non-traditional products

Banco Central Circular RF 151 of 2 December 1977 grants financial aid under the promoted export prefinancing scheme introduced by Circular RC 701 - RF 98 for exports of capital goods made by local firms under IDB or IBRD tenders, provided products are listed in the latter circular.

Banco Central Circular RF 153 of 6 December 1977 introduces new export prefinancing regulations for non-traditional products, complementing and modifying Circulars RF 98, 99 and 100. Borrowing is indexed according to the United States dollar exchange rate, with a 1 per cent interest rate to be paid to the lending bank on the adjusted figure. The Banco Central, which will provide the original funds, will in turn pay the banks a 2 1/2 per cent annual commission on this adjusted amount for their services. A transitory prefinancing system establishes that capital goods, on the one hand, and durable and semi-durable goods, on the other hand, will receive financing of 90 per cent and 80 per cent respectively in the period January to April 1978 and 80 per cent and 70 per cent respectively in the period May to June 1978.


AUSTRALIA

Tariff reductions

The Australian Government reduced tariffs on a number of products:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electric control apparatus and insulating fittings such as</th>
<th>Old general rate</th>
<th>New general rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wall plugs etc. (85.19.470)</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insulating fittings (85.26.200)</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starter switches etc (85.19.451)</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stranded wire etc. (74.10)</td>
<td>9% + A$82.50 per t.</td>
<td>5% + A$75 per t.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insulated electric wire (85.23.91)</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnet winding wire (85.23.92)</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rain umbrellas</td>
<td>30% + A$0.80</td>
<td>30% + A$0.23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AUSTRALIA (cont'd)

Orange juice tariff increase and quota termination

The Australian Government announced an increase in the import duty applicable to orange juice to 65 per cent to be applied from 1 July 1977 to 30 June 1978, pending completion of the Industries Assistance Commission examination of the long-term assistance needs of the citrus industry. Quotas on orange juice and orange juice concentrates were terminated on 30 June 1977.


Tariff increases for vehicle tyres and table ware

In October 1977, the Australian Government decided to increase to 40 per cent the import duty on passenger vehicle radial tyres and on all truck and bus tyres (tariff item 40.11.120). Previously the general tariff rate was 25 per cent and the preferential rate 20 per cent.

The general tariff rates for table ware have been increased from 22.5 per cent to 25 per cent with effect from 10 November 1977 and up to 9 November 1979. As from 10 November 1979 the tariff rates will be reduced to 20 per cent.


Tariff increases and temporary additional duties on dextrose, glucose and glucose syrups

Following consideration of the Industries Assistance Commission's Report, the Australian Government has raised the tariffs on dextrose to 10 per cent, and on glucose and glucose syrups to 5 per cent. In addition, temporary additional tariffs have been applied to imports of dextrose monohydrate. The rate of duty is 20 per cent for two years and 10 per cent thereafter.


Temporary additional duty on carpets

In July 1977 the Australian Government decided to apply a temporary additional duty on carpets (tariff item 58.02).

AUSTRALIA (cont'd)

Temporary duty on brandy

On 23 September 1977 the Australian Government introduced temporary import duties and tariff rate quotas on brandy for the six-month period beginning on 22 August 1977. This decision has been taken under the provisions of GATT Article XIX.

Source: L/4559

Temporary increase in duties: fork lift trucks

In the light of a report from the Temporary Assistance Authority, the Australian Government has decided to increase the import duty for a period of eighteen months on works trucks with a lifting capacity of more than 1,500 kgs but less than 4,000 kgs. The new duty rate is $A 2,500 per vehicle compared to previous rates of 30 per cent or $A 800 per vehicle in most cases.


Temporary increase in duties: luggage

Following a report of the Temporary Assistance Authority on the import of luggage (tariff item 40.02.900), the Australian Government has decided to increase the import duty for a period of eighteen months on most types of luggage from 3½ per cent to 5½ per cent. Imports from New Zealand and Papua New Guinea will continue to be duty free and the margin of preference applicable to imports from developing countries is being maintained.


Tariff quotas: chain hoists

The Australian Government has accepted the recommendation of the Temporary Assistance Authority that tariff quotas should be applied to imports of manually operated chain hoists, chain pulley tackle and chain winches (tariff item 84.22.2). For the six-month period ending 31 January 1978, the tariff quota has been set at 3,000 units; for the ensuing six-month period, the quota is 4,500 units. Above quota imports attract a temporary additional duty of 50 per cent ad valorem.

Tariff quotas: polyamide and polyester tyre cord fabrics

In August 1977, the Australian Government decided to introduce tariff quotas on imports of polyamide and polyester tyre cord fabrics (tariff items 51.04.2; 55.09.2; 59.11.2; and 70.20.1). The quota is to apply from 1 July 1977 until 30 June 1978 or until 4,500 tons have been delivered or irrevocably committed for delivery from local production. Importers' tariff quota entitlement is to be one ton of quota for each three tons delivered or committed for delivery from Australian production during the same period.


Tariff quotas: handyman vices and industrial vices

The Australian Government has decided to impose annual tariff quotas on handyman vices and industrial vices (tariff heading 82.04.900). The quota on handyman vices will be $A 600,000 value for duty, and on industrial vices $A 150,000, applicable on imports cleared between 1 July 1977 and 30 June 1978, allocated on the basis of imports during the year ended 30 June 1976.


Tariff quotas and bounty payments: drilling machines

Following a report of the Temporary Assistance Authority, the Australian Government decided to introduce for the year 1977 a tariff quota of 750 machines for certain types of belt-driven, pulley-operated bench or pedestal drilling machines. Imports in excess of the quota were made subject to a temporary additional duty of $A 200 per machine.

Subsequently, it was announced that as from 1 January 1978 the tariff quota arrangements would be replaced by bounty assistance, pending the report of the Industries Assistance Commission on long-term assistance needs.


Extension of tariff quotas: thick plywood

The tariff quota on imports into Australia of thick plywood, due to expire on 30 June 1977, has been extended to 30 June 1978, at the level of 10,000m³. Above quota duties have been revised.

AUSTRALIA (cont'd)

Tariff quotas: children's knitted suits

The Australian Government decided to introduce an annual tariff quotas on children's tracksuits, playsuits, rompersuits and like garments of 5.1 million garments, with retrospective effect from 1 May 1977. Above quota imports would be subject to an additional duty of $A 12 per kg.


Tariff quotas 1977/78: certain textiles, apparel and footwear items

Following consideration of interim reports of the Industries Assistance Commission on clothing and certain man-made fibres, yarns and fabrics, the Australian Government determined tariff quota arrangements applicable to a wide range of clothing and textile items for the twelve months commencing 1 March 1977. Tariff quota levels for clothing items remain unchanged, except for reductions in respect of certain under-garments and woven shirts. Above quota duty rates on certain clothing items were raised.

In respect of textile items, tariff quota levels on certain yarn and fabrics were reduced and tariff quotas were introduced on towelling and knitted man-made fibre pile fabrics. A number of adjustments were also made in the duty arrangements applicable.

Subsequently, the Australian Government decided to extend for a period of six months the validity period of tariff quota allocations in respect of textiles and apparel to 31 August 1978 and for footwear to 30 June 1978, and to allocate supplementary quotas for the additional six months, 20 per cent less than those previously in force.


Tariff quotas and bounty payments: yarns and fabrics

Following consideration of the Industries Assistance Commission's report on certain spun yarns, wool textiles and other goods, the Australian Government has decided to reintroduce tariff quotas on knitted and crocheted curtains and knitted or crocheted net fabrics, and to introduce tariff quotas on certain sleeping bags and certain yarns and woven fabrics containing wool. Bounty payments of $A 1.15 per kg. up to $A 600,000 are to be made in the period 1 October 1977 to 30 September 1978 on Australian production of certain polyester/cotton yarns.

AUSTRALIA (cont'd)

Reduction of export levies: coal

In the 1977/78 budget, the Australian Treasurer announced a further reduction in coal export levies.


Textiles, clothing and footwear: three-year assistance programme

It was announced in November 1977 that the Australian Government, after consideration of a report of the Industries Assistance Commission, had decided to introduce a three-year programme of assistance to the Australian textiles, clothing and footwear industries involving changes in tariff quotas, rates of duty, bounty payments, import licensing etc. on specific products.

Among the measures provided for are the extension of tariff quota arrangements to men's and boys' overalls, woven curtains, and certain knitted fabrics, the adjustment of certain duties and above quota charges and the introduction of import surveillance on certain products. High price footwear was exempted from licensing, but imports of specialist and sporting footwear were made subject to licensing.

L/4099/Add.4.

Import quotas, bounty payments: certain textiles

Following a report of the Textile Authority, the Australian Government decided in January 1977 to:

(i) discontinue import quotas on curtains (ex CCCN 60-05.390 and ex 62-02.790) and knitted or crocheted net fabrics;

(ii) maintain import quotas on bed sheets, pillow cases, bolster cases, including sets thereof (ex 62-02.190) but at the higher level of $A 1.5 million (value for duty); 

(iii) maintain import quotas on cotton sheeting for use as, or in the making up of, bed linen, not being fabric having a raised nap, (CCCN 55-09.524, 525, 526) at the higher level of 30 million m².

As a stimulus to Australian industry, it was also announced that bounty payments of 20 cents/m² up to an annual maximum of $A 600,000 would be made to Australian manufacturers of polyester/cotton sheeting. This limit has been subsequently increased to $A 600,000.

AUSTRALIA (cont'd)

Bounty payments: agricultural wheeled tractors

Following an inquiry and report of the Industries Assistance Commission, the Australian Government decided to remove the existing 105 kW. power rating limit for bounty payments for the production and sale of agricultural tractors. The bounty will be adjusted for price movements in exporting countries as is already done for smaller tractors. The arrangements would apply when the necessary amendments to the Agricultural Tractors Bounty Act 1966 take effect.

Source: Trade and Industry, 4 February, 5 August and 2 December 1977.

Anti-dumping and anti-subsidies investigations recently initiated

- Blue phthalocyanine dyes, tariff items 32.05.100, originating in Japan
- Fasteners (nuts and bolts), tariff item 73.32.900, originating in Japan
- Files and rasps, tariff item 82.03.300.71 and 129, originating in Canada
- Magnetic duplicator tape, tariff item 92.12.190.82, originating in the United States
- Polyol, tariff item 39.01.152, originating in the European Economic Community
- Rotary clothes dryers, tariff item 84.40.211.15, 84.40.219.14, originating in New Zealand and Japan
- Sodium acid pyrophosphate (leavening type), tariff item 28.40.100.31, originating in the United States
- Sodium hexametaphosphate (technical and food grades), tariff item 28.40.100.53, originating in the United States
- Sodium tripolyphosphate (food grade), tariff item 28.40.100.42, originating in the United States
- Sodium tripolyphosphate (technical), tariff item 28.40.100.42, originating in Belgium, Romania and Taiwan
- Urea, tariff item 31.02.900.85, originating in Indonesia.

Source: Bureau of Customs Notice, Department of Business and Consumer Affairs, 77/139, 20 October 1977; 77/169, 12 December 1977.
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY INQUIRIES AND REQUESTS FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTION

Following consideration of requests for temporary protection, the Australian Government referred during 1977 to the Temporary Assistance Authority requests for temporary protection affecting a number of products including in addition to those referred to under other headings:

- spectacle and sunglass frames;
- spanners.

IMPORT RESTRICTIONS: FIXED RESISTORS

Effective 10 November 1977, the Australian Government introduced import restrictions on fixed resistors falling within tariff item CCCN 85.19.600. For the six-month period from 10 November 1977, the base for determining importers' entitlements shall be one unit of import quota for each unit purchased or irrevocably committed for delivery from Australian production prior to the close of that period; for the following twelve-months period the proportions shall be one to two respectively. The Australian Government's decision follows a request for temporary protection in June 1977 and a report from the Temporary Assistance Authority.

Subsequent to the introduction of these import restrictions, the Industries Assistance Commission was asked to inquire into and report on the long-term protective needs of the local industry manufacturing fixed resistors of a kind falling within tariff item 85.19.600.


CONTINUATION OF GLOBAL LICENSING ON IMPORTS OF DOMESTIC ELECTRICAL CHEST FREEZERS

In July 1977, the Australian Government has decided to continue the current system of global licensing applied to the importation of domestic electrical chest freezers of up to 350 litres capacity in accordance with the provisions of GATT Article XIX.

Source: L/4387/Add.1.

QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF ASSEMBLED PASSENGER VEHICLES

On 12 July 1977, Australia introduced quantitative restrictions on imports of assembled passenger vehicles under GATT Article XIX. This measure will be continued until 31 December 1979.

Source: L/4526 and Add.3.
AUSTRALIA (cont'd)

Generalized System of Preferences: amendments

Australia has effected the following changes to its GSP scheme:

(a) Yugoslavia has been excluded from the developing country tariff preference on electricity watt hour meters classified within sub-paragraphs 90.26.311 and 90.26.319 of the Australian Customs Tariff;

(b) Hong Kong and Taiwan have been excluded from the developing country tariff preference on aluminium householdware classified to sub-item 76.16.900 of the Australian Customs Tariff;

(c) The GSP quota applying to stockings and tights classified within item 60.03.000 and sub-item 60.04.400 of the Australian Customs Tariff has been abolished. Developing countries now receive a margin of preference of ten percentage points without quota (Israel is excluded from the preference on 60.04.400);

(d) Developing country tariff preference has been withdrawn in respect of calcium carbide classified within sub-item 28.56.100 of the Australian Customs Tariff and products based on calcium carbide classified within sub-item 38.19.900;

(e) The developing country tariff preference has been withdrawn in respect of polyolefin fabrics, which are impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with artificial plastic material and fall within paragraphs 39.01.320, 39.02.320 and 39.02.330 of the Australian Customs Tariff;

(f) As a result of the Industries Assistance Commission report on "Railway and Tramway, Locomotives, Rolling Stocks, etc.", MFN rates of duty on a number of goods were reduced to the level previously set for developing countries. Therefore, the following tariff lines no longer provide a margin of preference for developing countries: 86.01.000; 86.02.900; 86.03.000; 86.04.000; 86.05.000; 86.06.000; 86.07.900; 86.08.000; 86.09.900.

Source: L/3982/Add.10.
AUSTRIA

More stringent import controls

In order to deal with balance-of-payments difficulties, the Austrian Government has introduced more stringent import controls. As from 1 November 1977 tariff cuts made autonomously in the 1960s on imports worth about Sch 2 billion were discontinued. Goods affected include certain textiles, clothing, electrical appliances, cameras, tyres, fruit and vegetables. About one third of the value of the imports concerned consist of farm products. Further measures that would be introduced included a system of import licences for steel, stricter supervision of imported foods, and certificates of origin for textile imports.


Import declarations: certain textiles

As from 1 August 1977, import declarations have been required for the importation into Austria of textiles falling within tariff headings 51.04, 53.11, 55.08, 55.09, 56.07, 60.03-05, 61.01-03, and 62.02.


Tropical products/GSP improvements

In relation with the negotiations carried out in the field of tropical products, new tariff preferences have been created or the existing preference margins have been increased for approximately sixty tariff lines as of 1 July 1977.

Source: COM.TD/W/261. L/4108/Add.1

BARBADOS

Import licensing: amendments

During 1977 a number of additional items falling under twenty-three CCCN headings were added to the list of goods requiring an import licence for importation into Barbados. During the same period, certain goods falling under four CCCN headings were freed from licensing.

Source: Trade and Industry, 18 February, 25 February, 22 April, 3 June, 1 July, 22 July, 5 August, 12 August, 26 August, 7 October, 14 October, 9 December 1977 and 16 December 1977.
BARBADOS (cont'd)

Increase in consumption tax and motor vehicle customs duty

In the Barbados budget speech, 15 April 1977, it was announced that rates of consumption tax payable on certain imported goods classified under twenty-two CCCN headings would be increased.

At the same time it was announced that the rate of customs duty levied on imported motor vehicles had been increased from 40 per cent to 45 per cent of the c.i.f. value.


BOLIVIA

Import prohibition: toys

Under a decree of 23 December 1976, the import into Bolivia of toys falling within tariff items 97.01, 97.02 and 97.03 when the unitary cost of the item is greater than US$10 f.o.b. has been banned.


Prior deposit scheme: exemptions

As a result of changes to the Bolivian prior deposit scheme, goods with a value below US$300 c.i.f. port of transit, construction equipment imported by registered construction companies, and publicity material and trade samples have been exempted from payment of the prior deposit.


BRAZIL

Modifications in customs duties

Import duties were increased in respect of a number of chemical products and on hypodermic needles. The former duties ranging from 15-45 per cent were increased to 30-60 per cent. (Customs Policy Council Resolution Nos.: 2961-2963, 2974-2976, 2977, 2979, 3031, 3032, 3043-3045.) The duty on sprinklers for automatic fire-fighting equipment was increased from 45 to 70 per cent until August 1978 (Resolution No. 2996). Exempt from duties were agricultural chemicals and raw materials for the manufacture of agricultural chemical (Resolution Nos.: 2941, 2997, 3000, 3001, 3028, 3035, 3036), as well as machinery and equipment for certain public works (Resolution No. 2991). Temporary duty exemptions or duty-free tariff quota were introduced for certain metals (Resolution Nos.: 2942, 3000, 3005, 3029), certain fertilizers, beans, raw
coffee beans and frozen and chilled bovine meat (Resolution Nos.: 2940, 2943, 2994, 3030, 3048); the duty-free quota for raw coffee beans was increased from 200,000 to 500,000 bags in November 1977 (Resolution No. 3050). Duties were reduced on image processors (from 9 to 0 per cent) and certain polyester film (from 85 to 15 per cent). Furthermore, duty reductions of a temporary nature were introduced for a number of products, including olives and olive oil, bovine cattle fat, bottles, concentrated lead ore, (Resolution Nos.: 2966, 2973, 3015, 3016, 3027, 3038, 3041, 3047) or by means of tariff quota at a reduced rate (Resolution 2967).

Source: Trade and Industry, 3 June, 17 June, 24 June, 8 July, 29 July, 9 September, 23 September, 21 October, 28 October, 11 November, 2 December and 9 December 1977.

**Tariff quota: raw coffee beans**

By a resolution of 11 November 1977, the Brazilian authorities exempted from import duty a quota of 500,000 bags of 60 kgs. of raw coffee beans, under tariff heading ex 9.01.01.00.


**Minimum export price and export tax: coffee**

Brazil reduced the minimum export price for coffee, effective from 5 December 1977, from US$3.20 to US$2.10 per lb. The export tax was reduced from US$200 to US$120 per bag.


**Export tax - soya meal: Increase in export tax**

The export tax on soya meal will be raised from 5 to 11 per cent, by stages, between December 1977 and November 1978. The export tax on soyabean is 13 per cent.

Source: Tariffs and Trade, 2 December 1977.

**Import restrictions and import deposit extended for a further year**

The Brazilian Government decided to extend its import restrictions, due to expire at the end of 1976, until the end of 1977. A law extending the import deposit scheme and the list of items for which import licences were required was due to be passed before the end of 1976.

Import deposit: exceptions

With effect from 14 September 1977, imports of slaughter cattle and fresh and frozen fish are no longer subject to import deposit requirement.

Source: UT, Sidste Nyt Nr. 37/77.

Import licensing: amendments

The list of goods subject under a Cacex communication of 20 December 1976 to the régime of suspension of import licences for the year 1977 was basically the same as for 1976 with some additions and the deletion of some exceptions. Under a Cacex communication of 8 March 1977, the issue of import licences for clinical thermometers was suspended until 31 December 1977. Subsequently by Cacex communications of 22 June and 9 August 1977, a number of goods falling under forty CCCN headings were excluded from the list of goods subject to suspension of import licences.

During 1977, the issue of import licences for electronic computers and their ancillaries was made subject to the prior approval of Capre, the Co-ordinating Commission for Electronic Data Processing Activities.

The issue of licences for the import of some steel and non-ferrous metals was made subject until 31 December 1977 to the prior approval of Consider, the council for steel and non-ferrous metals. In addition, it was decided that requests for approval would have to be grouped by a representative body for forwarding to Consider, who would then send approved applications on for issue of licences.


Exemption from restrictions: imports of Petrobras

By decree of 27 July, Petrobras was given exemption until 29 July 1979 from restrictions on imports of equipment, machinery, materials and spare parts for use in the production of crude oil and natural gas on the Bacia do Campos oilfield. Wherever Brazilian industry makes a similar product and can demonstrate delivery during the period of exemption, it would be eligible for various fiscal incentives by way of compensation.

BRAZIL (cont'd)

Prior import deposits

The Brazilian Government has decided to subject all imports of capital goods to the prior deposit of 100 per cent of the f.o.b. value of the goods for a period of 360 days, with exceptions related to the encouragement of the decentralization of industry and of risk capital.

By a resolution of 10 June 1977, exemptions from the prior deposit requirement were given to essential equipment, machinery, apparatus or instruments not having a national similar and intended for certain types of infrastructure and other enterprises and companies, as well as to tractors.

A Cacex communication of 19 September 1977 contains an extensive list of goods exempted from the 360 day prior deposit requirement on imports, either with immediate effect or from 1 January 1977.

Source: Trade and Industry, 1 April, 8 July and 14 October 1977.
L/4591.

Export quota and tax credits: hides and leather

The Brazilian Government has fixed a limit of 4 million cattle hides for export in 1978.

The industrial-products tax credit on tanned-leather sales has been reduced from 5 per cent to 3 per cent. This benefit was formerly restricted to exports, but has now been extended to include sales to the domestic footwear industry.


CANADA

Anti-dumping investigations recently initiated

The Department of National Revenue, Customs and Excise has initiated anti-dumping investigations with respect to the following products:

- semi-automatic and automatic strapping and tying machines originating in the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States, on 20 October 1977;
- artificial graphite electrodes and graphite connecting pins, originating in Japan, 16 November 1977.

Source: Notice of investigations, Department of National Revenue, Customs and Excise, 20 October 1977, 16 November 1977.

Preliminary determination of dumping

The Department of National Revenue, Customs and Excise has determined that the following products are being dumped:

- stainless steel plate and sheet originating in Japan, Federal Republic of Germany and South Africa, on 17 October 1977; the ruling applies to stainless steel plate from the three countries, and stainless sheet from both Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany;
CANADA (cont'd)

- ball-type metal furniture castors, originating in Japan and South Korea, on 24 October 1977;
- Maleic anhydride originating in Belgium, France, Italy, Japan, the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany on 28 October 1977;
- slate bed billiards, pool, and snooker tables originating in the United States, in November 1977;
- check valves and forged steel gate glove, originating in the United Kingdom, on 1 December 1977.

The provisional measure takes the form of a provisional duty or a security equal to the amount of the anti-dumping duty provisionally estimated.

Tariffs and Trade, 4 November 1977.

Final determinations of dumping

On 25 October 1977, the Canadian Department of National Revenue, Customs and Excise made a final determination that the following product, 12 hydroxystearic acid originating in Brazil, was being dumped.

On 29 December 1977, the Canadian Department of National Revenue, Customs and Excise made a final determination that wide-flange steel shapes, beams, columns or sections with a total out-to-out depth of less than 25 inches, originating in the United Kingdom, France, Japan, South Africa and Luxembourg were being dumped.

On 30 December 1977, the Canadian Department of National Revenue, Customs and Excise made a final determination that hot-rolled carbon steel bar size angles, originating in Japan, were being dumped.


Imposition of an anti-dumping duty

The Department of National Revenue, Customs and Excise has decided to impose an anti-dumping duty on the following products:

- surgical gloves originating in the United States and in the United Kingdom, in September 1977;
Termination of anti-dumping investigations

The Canadian Department of National Revenue, Customs and Excise has terminated the anti-dumping investigations with respect to the following products:

- photo albums with self-adhesive leaves, and self-adhesive leaves originating in Hong Kong, on 19 September 1977;
- self-adhesive leaves originating in Japan and South Korea, on 25 October 1977;
- maleic anhydride originating in Austria on 27 October 1977.


Following an anti-dumping investigation into imports of nylon continuous filament yarn, the Canadian Government has announced that it was satisfied that the margin of dumping was negligible and has terminated the investigation.


Termination of anti-dumping proceedings

On 26 August 1977, the Anti-Dumping Tribunal ordered the termination of the proceedings with respect to the dumping of slide fasteners, or zippers and parts thereof originating in Japan. Consequently, anti-dumping duties were no longer applicable on these products.

Source: Notice of termination of investigation, Department of National Revenue, Customs and Excise, 4 November 1977.

Textile and Clothing Board Inquiries

The Canadian Textile and Clothing Board has been undertaking during 1977 inquiries concerning the effect of imports into Canada on Canadian production of:

- sheets and pillow cases;
- hosiery;
- work gloves;
- woven cotton terry towels and towelling;
- hats and caps;
CANADA (cont'd)

- acrylic yarn;
- handbags.

The object of the inquiries is to recommend as appropriate, on the intro­duction, maintenance, modification or removal of special measures of protection.


Extension of global quota on worsted spun acrylic yarns

In early 1977, the Canadian Government decided to maintain at 2.5 million pounds the level of the quota on worsted spun acrylic yarns for the calendar year 1977. In early 1976, the Canadian Government implemented a global quota under the provisions of GATT Article XIX on imports of 100 per cent worsted spun acrylic yarns having an export price of less than Canadian $1.30 funds per pound, for a three-year period commencing 1 January 1976.

Source: L/4344 and Addendum 1.

Import quotas on clothing: extension

On 16 June 1977, the Canadian Government announced that import quotas on clothing, introduced in November 1976 (see L/4453) would continue until 30 June 1978. Subsequently, the period of validity of the import quota system was extended to 31 December 1978.

On 20 October 1977, the Canadian Government announced its intention to seek bilateral restraint arrangements on a three-year basis with the major low-cost sources of imported clothing into Canada, in order to limit the volume of imports. This action followed a recommendation of the Textile and Clothing Board. The principal supplying countries are Hong Kong, China, The Philippines, Poland, Romania, South Korea and Taiwan.


Global quota on double-knit fabrics

On 8 April 1977, the Canadian Government introduced a three-year global quota on double-knit fabrics under GATT Article XIX, that is upon the expiry of the interim measure introduced on 8 October 1976. The quota level during the first year will be 8.5 million pounds which will be distributed among Canadian importers semi-annually based on their individual historical import performance.

Source: L/4450 and Addendum 1.
CANADA (cont'd)

Unilateral restraint measures on textiles

Two restraint actions under Article 3:5 of the MFA with respect to imports from Hong Kong of bedsheets and polyester filament fabrics were taken by Canada for the twelve-month period beginning 11 March and 16 March 1977.

At the meeting of the TSB held on 15 December 1977, the two parties reported that following consultations, mutually satisfactory agreement had been discussed, but had not been finalized with respect to polyester filament fabrics. Consultations are being pursued.

Source: COM.TEX/SB/260 and 263.

Footwear: Investigation by the Anti-Dumping Tribunal and placing on the import control list

On 11 March 1977, the Canadian Government announced an investigation to be carried out by the Anti-Dumping Tribunal to determine whether imports of leather and vinyl footwear were causing or threatening to cause serious injury to production of such footwear in Canada.

Following the submission of an interim report in respect of women's and girls' footwear, it was announced on 10 August 1977 that as from 1 September 1977, women's and girls' footwear (other than canvas and rubber shoes) would be placed on the import control list.


Footwear: import quotas

On 1 December 1977, Canada introduced global import restraints on footwear, other than footwear of rubber or canvas, for a three-year period at levels corresponding to the average annual level of imports during the period 1974-1975-1976. The measure has been taken under GATT Article XIX. The major suppliers, accounting together for some 45 per cent of Canadian footwear imports in 1976, are Italy, Taiwan, South Korea, Spain, Brazil, Poland, the United Kingdom and Romania.

Source: L/4611.
**CANADA (cont'd)**

**Tropical products: GSP amendments**

With effect from 1 April 1977, Canada introduced or reduced rates under the General Preferential Tariff (GPT) on sixty five tariff items. This, together with reductions of the most-favoured-nation tariff on twenty-two items, was done in the context of the multilateral trade negotiations on tropical products.

Portugal, the Portuguese Adjacent Islands and the Portuguese Overseas Territories were added to the list of GSP beneficiaries with effect from 11 August 1977.

Colour television receiving sets having an overall diagonal measurement across the picture tube of sixteen inches or more were withdrawn from Canadian GPT treatment effective 5 February 1977 until 31 December 1979 inclusive, and it was decided that the temporary withdrawal of the GPT on rubber footwear be continued until 31 December 1979.

**CHILE**

**Temporary duty increases**

Chile introduced specific duties, in addition to the existing ad valorem duties, for certain wheat products in force for two months from 11 June 1977 (Ministry of Finance Decree 481 - Diario Oficial, 11 June 1977) and for certain milk powders, in force for three months from 23 July 1977 (Decree 616 - Diario Oficial, 21 June 1977).

Source: Trade and Industry, 1 July and 19 August 1977.

**Temporary duty reductions**

The rates of import duty for cotton, not carded or combed (35.01) and cotton binders (55.02) were reduced from 10 per cent to 5 per cent until 31 December 1977. (Decree 551 - Diario Oficial, 30 June 1977).


**Tariff reductions**

The final stage of reductions in the customs tariffs originally scheduled for 1 January 1978, has been brought forward (Decree 175 - Diario Oficial, 29 August 1977). The Decree lists new customs duties (ad valorem on the c.i.f. value) for all commodities. New duty levels range from 10 per cent to 35 per cent with the exception of motor cars, on which the duty remains at 115 per cent.

CHILE (cont'd)

Withdrawal of tax surcharges

Various taxes and surcharges affecting imports into Chile of cigars and manufactured tobacco, toilet preparations, alcoholic beverages and rubber tyres have been withdrawn with effect from 1 October 1977 (Decree 1844 - Diario Oficial, 3 August 1977).

L/4555.

Import régime: liberalization

As a result of successive general modifications in the Chilean customs tariff under Finance Ministry Decree of January, February and August 1977, the average nominal ad valorem duty applied under the tariff, was reduced from 27 per cent at the beginning of 1977 to 19.7 per cent.

Other trade liberalization measures taken include the reduction in the list of goods whose import is prohibited to six headings (from 27 in 1975) and the reduction in the number of imported products subject to prior deposit to six headings (from 14 in 1975).

Source: BOP/181.

COLOMBIA

Reductions in customs duties

The rates of duty on a number of items in the sectors of fats and oils, glass and office machinery (customs tariff chapters 15, 34, 70 and 84) were reduced (Decree No. 1046 of 10 May 1977). Furthermore, under Decree No. 1346 of 15 June 1977 the rates of duty on about twenty-five items were reduced.

For a number of products in chapters 84, 85 and 90 the temporary duty reduction to 5 per cent ad valorem introduced earlier was extended from 30 June to 30 November 1977. The reduction of duty on barley other than for sowing has been extended to 31 December 1977.

The rate of duty on chlorine and caustic soda has been reduced from 25 to 1 per cent ad valorem until 31 December 1977 (Decree No. 1507 of 5 July 1977).

COLOMBIA (cont'd)

Import licensing: liberalization

During the course of 1977 the Colombian Government removed a large number of products, amounting to part or all of fifty CCCN tariff headings, from the import licence list and transferred them to the free import licence list.


Import deposits

When applying for currency transaction permits, importers are required to deposit 40 per cent of the f.o.b. value in the case of raw materials and consumption goods and 60 per cent in the case of all other goods. According to an earlier regulation, which is still in force, importers are required to deposit 35 per cent of the f.o.b. value, prior to customs clearance. Certain products, e.g. foodstuffs for direct consumption, are still exempted from the requirement to deposit 35 per cent of the f.o.b. value prior to customs clearance.

Source: UT Sidste Nyt Nr. 29/77.

Import tax on capital goods: extension

The period of validity of the 5 per cent tax temporarily imposed on imports of capital goods has been extended again until 30 September 1978.


Import prohibition: automobiles

Colombia has prohibited the import of automobiles with a value of less than US$5,000 per unit.

In addition, as from 4 October 1977, the issue of import licences for automobiles having engines of more than six cylinders was suspended.

Source: VWD/NFA, 28 November 1977.

CYPRUS

Introduction of import levies

A special levy on imports into Cyprus of 1½ per cent on goods from the EEC and 2 per cent on most other goods has been introduced.

**CYPRUS (cont'd)**

**Import restrictions: balance-of-payments difficulties**

The Cyprus Government announced in its 1978 budget, tabled on 29 December 1977, that measures would have to be taken to curb imports which had risen beyond expectations. They were expected to reach €232 million in 1977, leaving a trade deficit of about €100 million.


**CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

**Generalized system of preferences: additional beneficiaries**

Under a decree of 8 May 1977, the Czechoslovak Government added the following countries to those whose products enjoy preferential tariff treatment in Czechoslovakia: Guinea Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe, Papua New Guinea, Cape Verde Islands, Mozambique, Angola and Grenada.

Source: L/3703/Add.2.

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

**Import régime: modifications**

Junta Monetaria Resolution of 12 December 1977 modifies import controls:

(i) quotas on imports of agricultural equipment are abolished provided that importers pay in the currency of the letters of credit opened for this purpose;

(ii) quotas for importers of construction equipment in 1978 are reduced to 50 per cent of their quotas in 1977;

(iii) the Banco Central will make available foreign currency for payments for imports of buses up to a maximum of US$500 (eq) per seat;

(iv) certain items have been added to the list for which payment is prohibited with foreign currency from the national banking system, subject to various conditions;

(v) the present system of quotas and prohibited imports will remain in force until 31 December 1978.

ECUADOR

Duty free imports of harbour equipment

The Ecuadorean Ministry of Finance has approved a new regulation No. 171, 27 April, which allows all electrical and harbour authorities in the country to import their equipment free of duty.

The aim of this new regulation is to help these authorities to carry out their large expansion programmes.


Prior import deposit: reduction

Under a regulation of 28 April 1977, the Ecuador Government reduced the prior deposit on all goods included in list I, part B, of the importation lists from 20 per cent to 10 per cent of the c.i.f. value.


Minimum import values: whisky

By regulation of November and December 1976, the Ecuador Government established new minimum import values for crates of whisky.


Motor vehicle imports: global quota established

The Ecuador Government established a global quota of US$28.6 million c.i.f. for imports during 1977 of cars, other than cars imported under commercial barter arrangements and those imported duty free. The quota was distributed among the main car exporters to Ecuador and represented 60 per cent of the average imports effected during 1973-1975.

The ban on the import of motor vehicles imposed earlier was lifted.


Prior approval: heavy vehicles

Previous authority from the Ministry of Public Works is now required for the importation into Ecuador of certain vehicles.

EGYPT

Import duty increases on beverages

Egyptian law 37 of 1977 increases the customs duty for alcoholic beverages as follows: beer to 1,200 per cent; wine to 1,300 per cent; champagne, vermouth, cider, perry and whisky to 3,000 per cent.


Tariff changes

Modifications have been made to the customs duty of various goods such as woven fabrics, glassware, refrigerators, butane gas stoves and water heaters. The new rates range from 150-300 per cent.


EL SALVADOR

Prior deposit - foreign exchange regulations

With effect from 15 November the Salvadorean Monetary Board has relaxed the foreign exchange regulations, which have been in operation since 1961. The 100 per cent prior deposit has been abolished for most goods.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Suspensions of import duties

Import duties on certain herrings intended for the processing industry were totally suspended in July 1977 until the end of 1977. (Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1610/77).

A temporary suspension of import duty on dessert apples to 6 per cent is applied from 13 November 1977 until 31 January 1978 (Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2465/77).


Tariff quotas

Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2860/77 increased the tariff quota for mountain breed cattle at the rate of 4 per cent from 30,000 to 38,000 head for the period of 1 July 1977-30 June 1978.

The duty free tariff quota for newsprint (48.01A) for 1977 was increased from 2,311,000 to 2,511,000 tons (Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2688/77).

By Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2338/77 the EEC opened an additional quota of 44,300 tonnes for imports at the duty rate of 3 per cent in 1977 of ferro-chromium containing not less than 4 per cent by weight of carbon, falling within sub-heading ex 73.02 EI of the Common Customs Tariff, and extended the benefit of this quota to certain imports of ferr-chromium containing a quantity of between 3 and 4 per cent by weight of carbon.


Temporary emergency measures for squids

Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2619/77 of 28 November 1977 introduced temporary emergency measures for frozen squid (tariff heading 03.03 B IV(a)(1)) imported into Italy with effect from 29 November 1977. Imports of frozen squid into Italy, with the exception of imports from Greece, are suspended. Exempted are imports from third countries which observe a minimum import price corresponding to the Community reference price for squid. Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2685/77 extended the measure to all EEC member States.

Import authorizations on textiles

Restraint measures were introduced by the EEC on 5 August with regard to imports of cotton yarn from Egypt into the Community, from Colombia, Spain and India into France; imports of T-shirts from Pakistan into France, Denmark and the Benelux, from Spain into France, Benelux and Germany, from Morocco and Tunisia into France; from Malaysia into France and Germany; imports of shirts and blouses from Macao into Denmark; imports of shirts from Singapore into Denmark; and imports of shirts from Morocco and Tunisia into France. The restrictions were introduced for the period 1 July 1977 to 31 December 1977. (Council Regulation (EEC) No 1827/77.)


Restraint measures were introduced by the EEC with regard to imports of woven fabrics of cotton from Egypt into Ireland and the United Kingdom, and from Tunisia into the Benelux; imports of pullovers from Singapore into the United Kingdom and Ireland; imports of suits from Macao into France; imports of dresses and skirts from India into France, the United Kingdom and the Benelux, from Macao into the Benelux and from Morocco into France. The restrictions were valid for the period 1 August 1977 to 31 December 1977. (Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2071/77.)

Source: COM.TEX/SB/280, 285, 286 and 287.

Voluntary export restraint/import surveillance: jute yarn originating in Thailand

Following consultations between the European Community and Thailand, the Government of Thailand has undertaken voluntarily to restrain its exports of yarn of jute or of other textile bast fibres of CCT heading No. 57.03 to the Benelux countries for the period from 1 January 1977 to 31 December 1979.

To ensure the effectiveness of these restraints, Council Regulation (EEC) No 2463/77 requires that imports from Thailand of the products in question into the Benelux countries remain subject to the production of an import authorization (continuing arrangements introduced early in 1977 by Regulation (EEC) No 967/77) and sets annual quantitative limits for the years 1977, 1978 and 1979.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (cont'd)

Termination of anti-dumping procedure

On 14 April 1977 the Commission gave notice in Official Journal of the European Communities No. C 89 of the initiation in accordance with Regulation (EEC) No. 459/68, of investigations concerning imports of oil-cake of soya beans from Brazil. In the course of these investigations the Brazilian Government gave undertakings that have satisfied the Commission, that the introduction of protective measures is unnecessary at present. The procedure is accordingly terminated. (See also under Brazil: export tax - soya meal.)

On 5 August 1977 the Commission gave notice in Official Journal of the European Communities No. C 187 of the initiation, in accordance with Commission recommendation 77/329/ECSC, of investigations concerning imports of haematite pig iron from Brazil. In the course of these investigations the Brazilian exporters gave undertakings that have satisfied the Commission, that the introduction of protective measures is unnecessary at present. The procedure is accordingly terminated.


Initiation of anti-dumping/anti-subsidy investigations

On 26 October 1977 the Commission of the European Communities decided to initiate an anti-dumping/anti-subsidy investigation on imports of housings for ball and roller bearings from Japan.

On 12 November 1977 the Commission of the European Communities decided to initiate an anti-dumping/anti-subsidy investigation on imports of mounted piezo-electric quartz crystals from Japan.

On 18 November 1977 the Commission of the European Communities decided to initiate an anti-dumping investigation on imports of iron and steel tubes from Spain.

On 17 December 1977, the Commission of the European Communities decided to initiate an anti-dumping/anti-subsidy investigation with respect to:
- unalloyed wrought titanium originating in Japan;
- certain sections of iron and steel originating in Spain;
- kraft liner originating in the United States.

On 28 December 1977, the Commission of the European Communities decided to initiate an anti-dumping/anti-subsidy investigation with respect to hole punching machines originating in Japan.
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (cont'd)

On 31 December 1977, the Commission of the European Communities decided to initiate an anti-dumping/anti-subsidy investigation with respect to heavy steel forgings originating in Japan.


Anti-dumping duty on ball-bearings, tapered roller bearings and parts thereof

On 26 July 1977, the Council of the European Communities adopted the Regulation (EEC) No. 1778/77 which enables the collection of an anti-dumping duty of 15 per cent on imports of ball-bearings, tapered roller bearings and parts thereof originating in Japan, if the price undertakings given by the major Japanese producers are evaded, are not being observed or have been withdrawn.

L/4587, paragraphs 4, 5 and 19.
COM.AD/42, paragraphs 4 to 17.

Anti-dumping duty on certain nuts of iron or steel

On 7 November 1977 the Council of the European Communities adopted Regulation (EEC) No. 2464/77 which enforced the collection of an anti-dumping duty of 15 per cent on imports of certain nuts of iron or steel originating in Taiwan. The measure follows an anti-dumping enquiry which opened in August 1976 and during which Taiwan exporters pledged to raise their export prices.

European Report No. 461.

Community surveillance of certain iron and steel products

The Commission Recommendation No. 77/330/ECSC of 15 April 1977 introduced Community surveillance in respect of the importation in the European Coal and Steel Community of certain iron and steel products originating in third countries. These imports were subjected to the issue of an import document. The Commission Recommendation No. 77/518/ECSC of 26 July 1977 added to the list of products high carbon ferro-manganese. The products for which the import is subject to the issue of an import document fall under CCCN tariff headings 73.01, 73.02, 73.08, 73.10-13, 17,15. The Commission Recommendation No. 77/808/ECSC of 23 December 1977 amended some of the provisions of the Commission Recommendation No. 77/330 establishing surveillance.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (cont'd)

Minimum prices for hot-rolled wide strips, merchant bars and concrete reinforcing bars

The Commission Decision No. 3000/77/ECSC of 28 December 1977, which applies to undertakings in the iron and steel industry of the European Coal and Steel Community and to their selling agencies and commission agents, fixes compulsory minimum prices for hot-rolled wide strips, merchant bars and concrete reinforcing bars. This Decision enforced for a further year, subject to certain amendments, the minimum prices established in May 1977 which were valid until 31 December 1977.


Basic prices for certain iron and steel products

With effect from 1 January 1978, the provisions of recommendation 77/329/ECSC on protection against dumping or the granting of bounties or subsidies from countries which are not members of the European Coal and Steel Community were modified (Recommendation No. 3004/77/ECSC) enabling the introduction of basic prices for certain iron and steel products, established by reference to the lowest normal costs in the supplying country or countries where there are normal conditions of competition, and the imposition of anti-dumping duties equivalent to the amount by which the export price is less than the basic price.


Generalized system of preferences amendments/tropical product offers

The European Economic Community, as of 1 January 1977, introduced a number of changes in its GSP. For industrial products, with the exception of footwear and certain iron and steel products (for which ceilings will be maintained at the 1976 level) and of textiles, the year 1971, which served as a basis for the calculation of the level of the ceilings has been changed to 1974. As for textile products, the ceiling has been increased from approximately 75,000 tons to 79,000 tons. Textile and apparel preferences have also been extended to dependant beneficiary territories. The application of ceilings for 1977 has been suspended for all semi-sensitive and non-sensitive industrial products when imported from the least-advanced developing countries in accordance with EEC GSP procedures.

Also from 1 January 1977, the EEC suspended, wholly or partially, m.f.n. duties on about twenty-two tariff items, and GSP treatment on 159 tariff items falling within CCCN Chapters 1 to 24 was improved, in implementation of contributions made in the MTN tropical products negotiations. In addition, quantitative restrictions on products covered by tariff positions 15.10 and 15.11 were liberalized in those member States where they previously applied and undertakings were made by certain member States in regard to specific internal tax measures on some tropical products.

The EEC GSP scheme for 1978 includes certain new processed agricultural products and extends preferential treatment to Romania for a number of additional products. The application of ceilings to products originating in the least-advanced developing countries was suspended for 1978 for all semi-sensitive and non-sensitive industrial products other than textiles.

Source: COM.TD/W/254.
DENMARK

Import licensing: liberalization for potatoes from certain countries

By a decision of 22 July 1977, the Danish Government liberalized the import of potatoes from EEC member States and from Turkey. Until then, the import of potatoes, other than seed potatoes, had been subject to licensing during the period 1 July to 30 March.


FRANCE

Import control: live fish

Under a decree of 25 May 1977, a general ban was imposed on the importation into France and the French overseas departments of all live fish falling under CCCN heading 03.01. However, at the same time the prohibition was waived for all live fish destined for human consumption, fish farming and restocking. Individual permits would be issued by the Ministry of Agriculture to importers of ornamental fish for aquariums.


Import liberalization: jute yarn

In application of EEC Regulation 1592/77, the import into France of yarn of jute and other hard fibres falling under tariff heading 57.03, originating in countries in zones II, III and IV was made subject to the régime of imports of liberalized goods subject to a prior technical visa, as from 3 September 1977.


Import liberalization: certain electrical motors

The importation into France of certain multi-phase electrical motors of an output of more than 0.74 kw. but not more than 37 kw. (ex CCCN 85.01 AII) originating in and coming from countries in liberalization zones I and II would take place from 7 October 1977 in accordance with the procedure for the declaration of importation not requiring a prior administrative visa.

FRANCE (cont'd)

Certificates of origin: certain products from all countries

Under notice published in the French "Official Journal" of 6 September 1977, certificates of origin would be required for imports of certain products originating in all countries as from 14 September 1977. The products concerned are: fertilizers (CCCN Chapter 31), articles of apparel and clothing (66.01), dish washing machines (84.19A), electrically operated clothes washing machines (84.40B1), certain sewing machines (84.41A1), electro-mechanical domestic appliances, with self-contained electric motor (85.06), electric heating apparatus etc. (85.12), loudspeakers (ex 85.14), radio and television receivers, whether or not combined with a sound recorder or reproducer (ex 85.15AIII), radiology and electro-medical apparatus (ex 90.17), electrical measuring etc. apparatus (90.28), toys etc. (Chapter 97).


ITALY

Import quotas: motorcycles from Japan

The Council of the European Communities has adopted Regulation (EEC) No. 1692/77 authorizing Italy to restrict during 1977 imports from Japan of motorcycles having a capacity equal to or greater than 380 cm³. The quota for 1977 has been set at 18,000 units, equivalent to a reduction of about 20 per cent from the level of imports in 1976. Italy was subsequently authorized to maintain in force the quota for the first six months of 1978 at the level of 9,000 units for the additional period.


Import surveillance: extension

On 2 February 1977, the Italian authorities announced that the import surveillance on paper and paper products would be extended to 30 June 1977 and on colour television sets to 31 December 1977.


Import regulations: textiles from non-EEC countries

Effective 4 November 1977, imports of textiles from non-EEC countries were made subject to the production of a special authorization for which detailed technical information and samples of the textiles in question were required and which should be approved by the Italian Ministries of Trade and Finance.
ITALY (cont'd)

Following negotiations on the question between the Italian authorities and the Swiss authorities, who maintained that the measures were causing Swiss textile exports to be blocked for periods of four to seven weeks, the Italian authorities undertook to remove special import regulations from consignments from Switzerland of a value of less than Lit 1 million, to accept a certificate of origin only in respect of consignments of Lit 1 to Lit 2 million, and to simplify and accelerate the technical authorization procedure in respect of consignments of a higher value.


UNITED KINGDOM

Article XIX action: portable monochrome television sets from the Republic of Korea

With effect from 23 July 1977, the United Kingdom restricted the importation of portable monochrome television sets from the Republic of Korea to a level of 35,000 in both 1977 and 1978. Imports of such television sets from all non-EEC countries except countries designated as falling in the "State-trading area" and Taiwan were already subject to surveillance arrangements. Transistorized television receivers originating in the "State-trading area" and portable monochrome television sets originating in Taiwan were already subject to quota licensing procedures.

On 6 December 1977 the European Economic Community has notified to contracting parties, in pursuance of GATT Article XIX, that import restrictions were established during the second half of 1977 on imports of portable monochrome television sets originating in South Korea, and imported into the United Kingdom.


Quantitative restriction: imports of underwear from Spain

As from 20 July 1977, imports into the United Kingdom of knickers, underpants and briefs, of cotton or of synthetic textile fibres, originating in Spain, were subject to quantitative restrictions. A quota was established for the period 1 February to 31 December 1977. Imports of these goods from Spain were previously subject to surveillance licensing.

UNITED KINGDOM (cont'd)

Footwear: import restrictions

Imports into the United Kingdom of non-leather footwear originating in Taiwan are being restricted to a level of 7.5 million pairs during the period 19 August 1977 to 31 December 1978.

In addition, imports of other footwear originating in Taiwan and imports of all footwear originating in Brazil, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Spain and countries designated as falling in the "State-trading area" were made subject to prior surveillance licensing with effect from 5 September 1977.


Import restriction: potatoes

The validity of licences granted for the import into the United Kingdom of maincrop potatoes was extended to 31 July 1977 and subsequently to 7 August 1977. After that date, the normal ban on imports of maincrop potatoes became effective. It was also announced that the normal ban on imports of new potatoes during September and October would also apply.


Import quotas: bananas from the "dollar area"

To offset expected shortfalls in supplies of fresh bananas to the United Kingdom from other sources, supplementary quotas were established for imports from countries designated as falling in the "dollar area" during the twelve months 1 October 1976 to 30 September 1977.
UNITED KINGDOM (cont'd)

The basic quota for imports of fresh bananas originating in the "dollar area" during the period 1 October 1977 to 30 September 1978 has been increased to 6,000 metric tons. In addition, supplementary quotas of 8,000 metric tons and 3,500 metric tons for imports from the "dollar area" during this period have been established.


Anti-dumping duty imposed on light steel sections

On 7 July 1977, the Department of Trade and Industry imposed an anti-dumping duty of £11 per ton on non-alloy steel light sections from Japan. This duty replaced the provisional charge to duty of £20 per ton imposed on 7 April 1977.


Price undertakings with respect to non-alloy steel products

With effect from 1 November 1977, imports of non-alloy steel reinforcing bars, light sections and flats originating in Spain are subject to price undertakings from the Spanish Government. The agreement will run until 30 April 1978 in the case of reinforcing bars, and until the end of October 1978, in the case of both sections and flats.

FIJI

Import licensing: certain goods

During the second half of 1977, the Fiji Government prohibited the importation, except in accordance with the terms of a licence issued by the relevant Fiji authorities, of certain wood and wood products, of certain cooking pots, blending compounds and foam or sponge shapes, and of portland cement.


FINLAND

Extension of surcharge with respect to women's panty hose (tights)

The surcharge imposed on the imports of women's panty hose (tights) for a period of six months as from 27 December 1976 has been extended by one year to 26 June 1978. The surcharge is equivalent to the difference between a fixed basic price and the import price of each consignment. It has been introduced with reference to GATT Article XIX.

Source: L/4461 and Addendum 1.

Minimum import prices: shirts and rubber footwear

The Finnish authorities have announced that the minimum import price of Fmk 18.00 per unit imposed on imported shirts of cotton and man-made fibres has been extended until 26 September 1978.

As from 9 February 1977, minimum import prices of Fmk 30, Fmk 20 and Fmk 16 per pair of, respectively, men's, women's and childrens' rubber footwear were established. A levy amounting to the difference between the actual import price and the minimum import price would be charged on imports at below the declared minimum import prices.


Automatic import licensing

Under a decree of 23 December 1977 a legal basis was created to apply an automatic import licensing system. The system is intended to enable the authorities to follow imports closely and take appropriate steps if serious difficulties develop in national production and employment.

Source: UT sidste Nyt, Nr. 4/78.
FINLAND (cont'd)

Monetary restrictions on imports

With effect from 1 March 1977, the Bank of Finland extended the scope of the Finnish Cash Payment Scheme, introduced in Finland in June 1973, to encompass also certain raw materials and semi-finished products. In its revised form, the scheme covered about one third of total imports, whereas the coverage previously was some 18 per cent.

Later in the first half of 1977, the Finnish authorities removed from the list of imports covered by the scheme, certain goods falling under twenty-one CCCN tariff headings and added certain goods falling under eight CCCN tariff headings.


Tropical products/GSP improvements

As from 1 January 1977, Finland has as a result of the Finnish concessions on tropical products in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, enlarged the product coverage in its Scheme of Generalized Preferences, mainly in Chapters 1-24 of the CCCN. The import equalization tax on agricultural products in the Finnish GSP Scheme was abolished on imports from developing countries as from 1 March 1977. In addition, with effect from 1 January 1977, Finland reduced m.f.n. duties on unroasted coffee.

Source: L/3674/Add.7.
   COM.TD/W/261.
GABON

Change of import licensing procedures

As from 1 January 1977, the Gabonese authorities decided to supervise imports by means of a system of "prior authorization to import", and to extend this system to imports whatever their origin, thereby doing away with import licences.

The system of "prior authorization to import" was temporarily suspended from 19 May until the end of August 1977, except in respect of items prohibited for security and health reasons and items subject to quotas.

It was reported in mid-August 1977 that the import of goods of all origins of a value of more than Fr CFA 500,000 was once more subject to the obtaining of prior authorization.


GHANA

Revision of tariff

The Ghanaian authorities modified, as from 29 July 1977, the tariff rates applying under the Ghanaian tariff as a whole, with the exception of Chapters 29, 31, 72 and 99. The revision consists of three main types of change:

(i) for a large number of products previously subject to a tariff of 50 per cent, the rate has been reduced to 35 per cent;

(ii) for textile articles and products considered as non-essential, the rates applicable have been increased from 50 per cent to 60 per cent;

(iii) certain positions in Chapters 78, 82, 84, 85, 86, 87 and 90, previously exempt from duty, were made subject to a duty of 35 per cent.

GREECE

Import deposit regulations: liberalization

During 1977 a number of goods were transferred to import lists F or P for which no import deposit is required. The items concerned included certain tin meats, glass mirrors, record blanks and special plastic film.

Source: Trade and Industry, 4 March, 1 April, 17 June and 19 December 1977.

HUNGARY

Customs legislation

On 1 July 1977 Hungary considerably simplified its customs legislation, the most important change being the replacement of complicated calculations based on weight, the monetary area and other factors, by an ad valorem assessment. More liberal rules for temporary imports were introduced and customs procedures for samples and products entering the country for quality control and certification purposes were simplified.


Foreign trade licensing regulation

A new licensing regulation for foreign trade transactions was introduced on 1 October 1977. The regulation did not introduce changes in the existing licensing system but the rules previously laid down in various laws and decrees have been brought together in one legal instrument.

Source: L/4633.
INDIA

Import liberalization: iron and steel

The Government of India has placed twenty-three items of iron and steel on open general licence. Of these, six items would be channelled through the Steel Authority of India. The other items could be imported by actual users.


Import liberalization: commercial drugs

The Government of India has placed 244 drug items on open general licence. These materials may be purchased only in bulk unprocessed form by actual users, who are registered with the appropriate authorities, for use in their own units.


Import Policy 1977/78: liberalization

Major changes under the Indian import policy for the year April 1977 to March 1978 include:

(i) the placing of several items of machinery chemicals, drugs etc., on Open General Licence;
(ii) the placing under free licensing of a large number of additional items;
(iii) the evolution of a system of automatic licensing for the import of raw materials and components by industrial units, based on their actual consumption in the previous two years;
(iv) liberalization of the import policy for spare parts;
(v) simplification of procedures for dealing with applications and issue of import licences.


Export controls on groundnuts

The Indian Government has stopped exports of groundnuts from the 1977/78 crop, while export quotas for groundnut meal have been set at low levels to retain supplies for domestic use.

INDONESIA

Reductions in import duties

The Indonesian Minister of Finance announced the following tariff changes during 1977:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tariff number/description</th>
<th>Old import duty %</th>
<th>New import duty %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>84.41.10/19 Industrial sewing machines</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62.05.00 Sanitary towels</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48.05.00 Corrugated filter paper</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38.11.55 Insecticides</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.07.90 Baby food</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The sales tax on these products is 10 per cent.


Regulations for the import of textiles and concrete iron

Under regulations effective 1 January 1977 for the import of most textiles, at the time of the opening of the letter of credit, which must be a banker's letter of credit, the importer must deposit:

(i) 100 per cent of the value of the goods;
(ii) advance payment of the import duty in full;
(iii) a financial guarantee for 100 per cent of the total letter of credit value, to be blocked until the entry of goods is completed.

Similar regulations were subsequently introduced, effective 28 January 1977, for the import of polyester fibre, gunny sacks and concrete iron.

INDONESIA (cont'd)

Exchange control regulations

The Indonesian Government announced, with effect from 17 May 1977, that imports may only be carried out by opening a banker's letter of credit, a merchant's letter of credit being no longer acceptable.


Ban on import of motor-cycle and motor-scooter components

In order to set up a complete motor-cycle and motor-scooter industry in Indonesia, the Indonesian Government has decreed that, with effect from 11 January 1977, local assembly companies will be obliged to use some locally manufactured components. Imports of components for assembly will be progressively banned so that by 1980 only local manufactured components will be used.

In addition the regulation stipulates that the vehicles imported must be in a completely knocked-down condition, that import may be carried out by sole agents companies only and that each agent will only be permitted to import six types of vehicles.

IRAN

Import regulations 1977/78

Under the Iranian import régime for 1977/78, effective 21 March 1977, the import of goods falling under the following tariff headings, which had been freely importable, were made subject to prior approval: 03.01, 03.02, ex 07.01, 08.07, 29.15, 38.16, ex 38.19, 40.10, 56.01-56.04, 68.06, 69.02, 73.26, 73.27, ex 73.37, ex 79.03, 90.17. Certain citrus fruits falling under tariff heading 08.02 and goods falling under tariff heading 21.05, whose import had not been authorized previously, were made subject to the régime of prior authorization.


State trading for iron and steel

A bill to establish a State-trading company for iron and steel was reported in July 1977 as being before the Iranian Parliament. Its intention was to bring domestic prices under control and to place all imports under the control of the new company.

Until the bill passed through Parliament, all iron and steel imports were being organized through a subsidiary organization of the Ministry of Commerce.


IRAQ

Import licensing programme 1977

The Iraq import licensing programme for 1977 consists of four lists of items:

(i) items which were permissible imports to private sector importers;
(ii) prohibited items;
(iii) items restricted to the general trade establishment;
(iv) items for which licences would be granted only when local production did not satisfy market requirements.

ISRAEL

New economic measures

On 28 October 1977 the Government of Israel decided on a number of measures concerning Israel's future economic policy. The decisions concerned the unification of the rate of exchange, the relaxation of foreign controls and the transformation of the Israeli £ into a convertible currency. The former exchange rate system was replaced by a floating exchange rate system. The Israeli Government also introduced a liberalization programme which included the removal of most foreign exchange restrictions relating to foreign trade, the abolition of the system of refund of indirect taxes on exports, the abolition of the system of temporary surcharges on imports, the continuation of the programme of import liberalization, a reduction in the scope of government imports and a large scale reduction of import duties.

Source: Statement of the representative of Israel (C/M/123).

Import surcharge: removal of goods

The Israeli Government has announced that goods containing acrylic or modacrylic fibres in any percentage which fall within CCCN 53.03 and 53.05-09 are no longer subject to import surcharge.


Anti-dumping surcharge: pastels and crayons and certain tissue paper

The Israeli authorities have decided to levy anti-dumping surcharges on two-ply tissue paper in rolls of a width exceeding 20 cm. of a weight of 18 to 22 gm/m², and on pastels and crayons.


Import licensing

A number of additional items have been included on the Israeli negative licensing list. Licences are not generally granted for items on this list. The items concerned are worked raw animal skins (not new), hosepiping for firefighting and certain rags.

In addition, the Israeli authorities have amended the liberalized licensing list as it affects products falling under CCCN headings 29.02, 51.01 and 82.05.

JAMAICA

Import ceiling and licensing

On 5 January 1977, the Jamaican Government announced an import ceiling in 1977 of J$600 million. In order to monitor all imports for 1977, all outstanding import licences were to be called in immediately for review. Revalidation of licences would be considered on the basis of irrevocable commitment entered into by importers and the country's priority needs. Imports for the public sector would be centralized and applications considered strictly on the basis of the country's priority needs.

Subsequently, the Jamaican authorities added an additional nine groups of goods to the list of goods requiring an import licence and issued a list of the only goods requiring no specific licence for their importation into Jamaica, consisting of nineteen groups of products.


Import prohibitions: 128 items

On 9 February 1977, the Jamaican authorities announced a total ban on the importation of 128 items, including whisky, motor-cars, and a wide range of foodstuffs and consumer goods.


State trading: all imports

The formation was announced of the Jamaican State Trading Corporation on 15 November 1977. It would be a holding company, entrusted together with its subsidiaries with importing all goods into Jamaica.
JAMAICA (cont'd)

Its first operational subsidiary, Jamaican Nutrition Holdings, already controls imports of all basic foodstuffs. It is proposed to introduce six more operational subsidiaries, the first three of which will deal with:

- pharmaceuticals and medical supplies;
- textiles and leather;
- construction materials for the building industry.

They will be introduced on a phased basis, starting with larger orders and gradually extending control over the whole sector.


JAPAN

Measures to increase imports

In September 1977, the Japanese Government announced a series of measures designed to increase imports by about US$700 million by the end of 1977. The measures included expansion of import quotas on twenty-seven items, mostly agricultural products, including wheat, coal, hides and skins, marine products, leather footwear and oranges. Steps were also to be taken to promote increased imports of crude oil and of copper, zinc and other non-ferrous metals for stockpiling, as well as to increase imports of uranium ore.

COM.TD/W/263.
JAPAN (cont'd)

Foreign exchange liberalization: small import consignments

Japan was reported as taking steps to increase the value level of imports below which importers would not be obliged to obtain an automatic authority from foreign exchange banks for the remission of funds to pay for them, from ¥ 308,000 to ¥ 1 million.


Tropical products/GSP improvements

With effect from 1 April 1977, Japan implemented concessions made in the context of the multilateral trade negotiations on tropical products. M.f.n. concessions were made on twenty-eight products, GSP contributions on fifty-two products and import quotas were removed on three items.

In addition, certain other changes were made to the Japanese GSP scheme with effect from 1 April 1977. These included the updating of the reference years for the computation of preferential quotas from 1968 to 1975 for most products and the extension of the list of beneficiaries to include Yugoslavia.

Source: COM.TD/W/261/Add.3.
L/4531.

Import restrictions on thrown silk yarn

On 18 May 1977, Japan instituted a "prior permission system" on imports of silk yarn and silk fabrics with a view to ensuring the functioning of the State-trading mechanism on imports of raw silk. A panel was established to examine the matter referred to the CONTRACTING PARTIES by the United States under GATT Article XXIII:2.

Source: L/4509, L/4530.

KOREA

Import liberalization

The Trade Plan of the Republic of Korea for the second half of 1977 provided for granting automatic approval status to twenty-two import items, including vegetable oils, petroleum products, asphalt and certain chemicals,
KOBEA (cont'd)

and the easing of restrictions on a further fourteen items. The import of spare parts, certain types of machinery and equipment, and goods sold off the floor at trade exhibitions were also liberalized. Subsequently, on 1 July 1977 an additional twenty-four items were placed on automatic approval, including beef tallow, cotton yarn and some machinery. At the same time rates of prior import deposit requirements were lowered, with new rates ranging from 5 to 100 per cent compared with 5 to 200 per cent previously. The list of luxury and non-essential items was revised, nineteen items being deleted including raw wool, medical instruments, steel wire and zinc ores. In addition, the import ceilings for many items were lifted.

As from 6 October 1977, the import of vehicles and parts under CCCN headings 87.01, 87.03 and 87.14 was made no longer subject to licensing restrictions.

The Korean Government has also announced that as from the beginning of 1978 import restrictions on 126 products would be reduced. The products concerned include certain tools, chemicals and synthetic fibres.

Source: Commerce America, 5 December 1977.

KUWAIT

Import licensing: wireless systems

The Kuwait Ministry of Communications announced on 5 June 1977 that the importation of all types of wireless systems was prohibited, except under licence from the Ministry.


LEBANON

Customs duty amendments and exemptions

Amendments to the Lebanese Customs Tariff were published (Official Gazette of 21, 22 July 1977) concerning poultry, eggs and margarine. Customs duty exemptions were announced for empty bags and containers and waste paper.

LEBANON (cont'd)

**Import licensing: liberalization**

The Lebanese authorities have announced that a number of items are no longer subject to import licensing restrictions. The products concerned are certain preserved apples, acetic acid and its anhydrides, plate glass, certain aluminium products, parts of wooden furniture and brushes, sugar, cement and machinery, equipment and parts thereof.


LIBERIA

**Customs tariff changes**

Liberia has issued a new customs tariff, effective on 1 October 1977, which amends the rates of duty payable on almost all items.


LIBYA

**Import licensing: import monopolies**

Imports into Libya of certain steel and aluminium pipes as well as clothing, tinned fruit and vegetables, certain dairy products and chocolate were made subject to import licensing during 1977.

Single importing entities have been determined for the types of steel and aluminium pipes in question, for cloth, for electronic components, for tinned fruit and certain other processed foodstuffs, for tyres and batteries, for motor vehicles and for leather and leather products of all kinds except shoes. Also, it has been announced that a State-importing authority for clothing would be established.

### Tariff increases

The Malaysian Government passed Customs Duties (Amendments)(No. 2) Order 1977, which amends the first schedule to the Customs Duties Order 1968 resulting in the following tariff increases as of 18 May 1977:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tariff heading</th>
<th>Old tariff rate</th>
<th>New tariff rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28.04.100 Hydrogen, rare gases</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.01.300 Acetylene</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55.05.100 Certain cotton yarn</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>15% or 40 cts. per lb. on gross weight, whichever is higher $2.50 per lb. on gross weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56.05.100 Yarn of synthetic fibres</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>$2.50 per lb. on gross weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56.05.200 Yarn of regenerated fibres</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>15% or 40 cts. per lb. on gross weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56.06.190 Yarn of man-made fibres, other</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>$2.50 per lb. on gross weight</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Export duty and surcharge reduction: rubber

The Malaysian Government announced on 28 October 1977, a revised scale of export duties and surcharges on rubber exports. Under the new scale, at a gazetted rubber price of 100 Malaysian cents per pound, the combined export duty and surcharge is now 19.50 cents rather than 21.25 cents as before. At higher rubber prices, the reduction is greater, the combined export duty and surcharge at 300 cents per pound being 142.36 cents rather than 211.75 cents per pound.


### Export duty on palmoil

The export duty on palmoil was modified in October 1977 to provide separate gazetted prices for crude and processed oil in place of the previous single price.

MALAYSIA (cont'd)

Company to protect exporters

The Malaysian Government has established a company, the Malaysian Export Credit Insurance Bhd., to protect exporters against losses arising from non-payment by foreign buyers. The company will also provide guarantee to commercial banks and other financial institutions which give credit to exporters.


Import licensing: amendments

The following items have been added during 1977 to the lists of goods requiring an import licence: super-heated water boilers (into the Federation of Malaysia); carbon black, changkols, shovels, spades, certain buttons, sacks and bags of jute, Fuller's earth, and ion-exchange resins (into West Malaysia).

During 1977, it was announced that a number of items would no longer require an import licence. The products concerned are: certain umbrellas, salt, cotton yarn, and yarn of man-made fibres (into West Malaysia); and flour and meal of fish, crustaceans, and molluscs, unfit for human consumption (into the Federation of Malaysia).

In addition, the Malaysian Government prohibited, as from 21 April 1977, the import of the Rank Xerox 6500 colour photocopier into any part of Malaysia.

Source: Trade and Industry, 29 April, 3 June, 24 June, 28 October, 18 November and 25 November 1977.

MALTA

Reductions in import tariffs

The Government of Malta, by Act 29 of 1977, introduced the following tariff reductions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tariff number/description</th>
<th>Old import duty</th>
<th>New import duty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General</td>
<td>EEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33.06 room deodorisers</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38.19 deodorants, meat tenderisers</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73.21 equipment used in scaffolding</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76.08 equipment used in scaffolding</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MALTA (cont'd)

Import licensing: additional goods

During the course of 1977, the Maltese Government added on various occasions additional products to the list of goods requiring an import licence. The goods concerned included chocolate and products containing chocolate, certain paper products, weighing and measuring instruments, belts, purses and wallets of leather or plastic, certain hand tools, mineral water, domestic battery chargers, certain marble blocks and slabs, certain wood products, die-pressed embossment machines, metal ladders and vehicle engines over 2,150 cc.

Source: Trade and Industry, 7 January, 4 February, 8 April, 22 July, 2 September, 30 September and 11 November 1977.

Temporary embargo: cigarettes

The Maltese authorities imposed in 1977 a temporary embargo on the importation of cigarettes intended for sale duty paid.


MAURITANIA

Tax and tariff increases

In addition to an increase of the conjunctural intervention tax from 5 per cent to 10 per cent, Mauritania raised to 50 per cent the rate of duty for certain medicinal and pharmaceutical alcoholic products and essential oils, and to 20 per cent the rates of duty for certain alcoholic beverages,
MAURITANIA (cont'd)

precious metals, radio and television sets, cameras, musical instruments, arms, furniture and art objects. The rate of duty for passenger cars was increased from 25 per cent to 40 per cent.


MAURITIUS

Special levy and tariff changes

The special levy on all goods specified in chapters 50 to 57 inclusive has been increased from 10 per cent to 15 per cent and extended to include 60.01.

The special levy on all other goods except those specified in chapters 1 to 21, 23, 25 to 32, 38, 39, 41 and 97 has been increased from 25 per cent to 30 per cent.

With effect from 26 April 1977 the rates of fiscal and customs duties for a large number of items covering beverages, tobacco products, fuels, rubber tyres, television and radio sets, motor vehicles and cameras were changed.


Import deposit: introduction

In a notice of 5 March 1977, the Mauritius Government announced an import deposit of 50 per cent. This rate was subsequently reduced to 35 per cent.

MAURITIUS (cont'd)

Import licensing and prohibition: motor-vehicles, refrigerators and television sets

With effect from 28 November 1977, the import of the following goods was made subject to import licensing: motor cars (CCCN 87.02); motorcycles (87.09); refrigerators, including freezers (84.15); and television sets (85.15).

With effect from 12 August 1977, the Mauritius Government had banned the import of second-hand motor vehicles.


MEXICO

Import duty increases

A decree published in the Diario Oficial of 24 May 1977, made extensive changes to the rates of import duty charged on imports. Many of the goods previously subject to a rate of 10 per cent will now be charged 15 per cent. In some cases higher rates have been imposed and in a few cases high rates have been reduced.


Import duty reductions

A decree, published in the Diario Oficial of 30 June 1977, made many amendments to the rates of duty charged on imports into Mexico. Generally speaking, rates have been reduced by five percentage points, but some rates have been reduced by greater amounts.


Import licensing régime: amendments

The Mexican Government in orders of 24 May 1977 released from licensing requirements certain spices, alcoholic beverages, aircraft and boats. Imports of some motorcycles and bicycles were made subject to licensing.

Under an order of 6 July 1977, the Mexican authorities made certain products falling under tariff headings 84.23 and 84.25 subject to import licensing.

MEXICO (cont'd)

Import and export permits

A new regulation concerning import and export permits was introduced and will gradually replace the regulation of 1936. A number of tariff positions will be exempted from the import licensing system and there will be certain tariff reductions. No product can be exported without an export permit. Customs matters and applications for licences will be administered by the Secretaria de Comercio.

Source: Diario Oficial, 14 September 1977.
   UT Sidste Nyt. 43/77.

MOROCCO

Customs duty suspension: certain meat

The customs duty applicable on imports into Morocco of beef, veal and sheepmeat as well as of dead fowls was suspended for the period 1 May to 31 December 1977.


Import duties: cheese

The Ministry of Finance has announced modifications in the customs tariff and increases in certain duty rates for cheese (CCCN 04.04). The former rate was 70 per cent. These items should now read:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tariff No./description of goods</th>
<th>Duty rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04.04 Cheese and curd:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Cheese, soft and cooked:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of a minimum fat content of 45 per cent by weight</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Not specified:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft, uncooked</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MOROCCO (cont'd)

Increases in import duties

The Moroccan Government announced increases in customs tariffs for a wide range of products—with effect from 18 November 1977. The goods affected, many of which have been liberalized under the import programme for 1977, include pig meat, fish, crustaceans and molluscs, sugar confectionery, syrups, molasses, chocolate, beer, footwear, certain types of jewellery, tableware, automobiles and spectacles.

For a number of items the tariff rates have been doubled and for certain luxury goods the tariff increases have been more substantial.


Special tax on imports

The Moroccan special tax on imports increased from 5 per cent to 8 per cent ad valorem from 1 January 1977.


Change of import régime: textiles

A notice published on 22 August 1977 introduced major changes in the régime for the import of textiles into Morocco. The importation of products falling under ten CCCN headings, previously subject to import licensing, was suspended as from 20 August 1977. For these products and most other textile products requiring an import licence the period of validity of import licences issued before 22 August 1977 was limited to 28 August 1977. All textile items previously on the liberalized list were transferred to the list of items requiring an import licence.


NEW ZEALAND

Higher rates of customs duty for alcoholic beverages

The New Zealand Government has introduced higher rates of customs duty for the import of beer, spirits and tobacco.

This legislation came into effect on 22 July 1977.

NEW ZEALAND (cont'd)

New Zealand: import deposit scheme

In July 1977, the operation of the import deposit scheme was extended for a further period of six months until February 1978. The scheme covers about 5 per cent of New Zealand's imports, which represents a 30 per cent reduction since its original introduction. The scheme was withdrawn as from 3 February 1978.

Source: L/4536, L/4627.

Import licensing: schedule for 1977/78

Under the New Zealand import licensing schedule for the twelve-month period starting 1 July 1977, basic import licence allocations were set in general at 100 per cent of the 1976/77 licences by value. No new exemptions from import licensing were provided for. The allocations for certain goods were reduced. For ceramic tableware, wines, some spirits and sports racquets, the relevant c.i.f. and f.o.b. prices were increased in order to protect domestic manufacturers.


Import prohibition: certain goods

Effective 13 May 1977, the importation into New Zealand of whale teeth, and second-hand clothing, blankets, rugs and flock was prohibited.


Industries Development Commission inquiry: Painting of sheet steel or strip

The New Zealand Government has requested the Industries Development Commission to inquire into and report on industries engaged in the painting of steel sheet or strip of tariff headings 73.12 and 73.13, including on the nature and extent of assistance required, if any, whether by means of protective devices or otherwise.

Source: Trade and Industry, 1 April 1977.
NEW ZEALAND (cont'd)

Industries Development Commission inquiry: paper and paper-board

The New Zealand Minister of Customs has requested the Industries Development Commission to re-examine the question of an alternative tariff mechanism in respect of paper and paper-board (tariff heading 48.01) which would provide basically the same protective results as the "support duties" recommended by the Tariff and Development Board, but without affecting New Zealand's trade policy stance to the same degree.


NIGERIA

Import restrictions: certain electronic goods

With effect from 3 January 1977, certain electronic goods were made subject to import restrictions.


Import restrictions: amendments

In the Nigerian Federal Budget, a number of changes in import restrictions, effective 1 April 1977, were announced. The following goods were added to the absolute prohibitions (trade) list: lace, tulle (except tulle grass) and net fabrics; galvanized buckets; carbon paper; beer-bottles; Evian waters; real Madras; and all cars above 2,500 cc. capacity. Chocolate and chocolate preparations and badges used by international organizations were deleted from the list. Also the following goods were added to the list of items requiring import licences: common salt; carpets; typewriter ribbons; furniture; matches; passenger cars over 2,000 cc. but not exceeding 2,500 cc; canned beer and soft drinks.

NIGERIA (cont'd)

Import prohibition: champagne and other sparkling wines

By a decree of 17 February 1977, the Nigerian Government prohibited with immediate effect the importation of champagne and other sparkling wines (tariff items 22.05A and 22.07A).


NORWAY

Import duties and control

Additional duties have been imposed on semi-finished products of mashed potato and/or potato starch for the manufacture of snacks. Furthermore, semi-finished products for the foodstuffs industry based on mixtures of potato starch and powdered milk are subject to import control.


Elimination of import licensing: certain textiles from EEC and EFTA countries

As from 18 July 1977, certain types of clothing falling within CCCN tariff headings 60.03-05, 61.01-03 and 62.02 could be imported into Norway from EEC and EFTA countries (other than Portugal) without an import licence, provided that a movement certificate was supplied.


Tropical products/GSP amendments

In the context of the multilateral trade negotiations on tropical products, a further fourteen items were added to the Norwegian GSP as from 1 January 1977.
NORWAY (cont'd)

During 1977, the following countries were added to the list of GSP beneficiaries: Romania, Angola, Cape Verde, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe. As from 1 January 1978, Bulgaria was also added to the list. Certain special exceptions from normal GSP treatment for Romania and Bulgaria apply.

As from 1 September 1977 imports of certain products from the Republic of Korea were excepted from GSP treatment.

Source: L/4242/Add.5-9.

PAKISTAN

Increases of import duties

Changes in import duties have resulted from the Finance Act 1977.

Apart from those tariff items which remain free of import duty the majority of items have duty increases. These increases vary from 2½-30 per cent ad valorem. A few items have however had their rates reduced.


Import policy 1977/78

Under the Pakistan import policy for the twelve months from 1 July 1977, a liberalized trend has been maintained and the pattern of "free" list and "tied" list continued. The main changes are as follows:

(i) Tallow, previously importable by industrial consumers only, may be imported by all registered importers;

(ii) Certain textile machinery, previously only importable by the cotton textile industry, may now be imported by other textile industries;

(iii) The financial ceiling of Prs 25,000 for the import of machinery and mill work and parts and accessories has been raised to Prs 50,000;

(iv) Electric motors of all types may now be imported.

PANAMA

Import quotas: sugar products

The Panama Government has established import quotas for sugar confectionary, caramels and other similar sugar-based products and sugar preparations and for sweets and bonbons.


PERU

Import licensing

A decree of 14 December 1976 brought into force a previous decision subjecting all goods imported into Peru to import licensing.


Import financing

The Central Reserve Bank of Peru has announced that as from 2 August 1977 all imports worth US$2,000 or more must be financed for at least 180 days. The requirement would apply to both public and private sector imports and the only exceptions were for foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals.


POLAND

New Polish Customs Tariffs

New customs duties are being applied in Poland from 1 January 1978. Details were published in the Monitor Polski No. 35, 30 December 1977. The highest customs duties apply on imports of electrical engines, for which Column I establishes a duty of 30% and Column II a duty of 45%. The duties mainly apply to agricultural produce and fruits, with Column I duties ranging mostly between 5-10% and Column II duties mostly amounting to 15%. High duties of 30% and 45% respectively apply on various stockings.

POLAND (cont'd)

Changes in foreign trade planning and management systems

A Decision of the Council of Ministers of 18 March 1977 allowed considerable autonomy in their economic activities to large economic organizations which often have their own foreign trade enterprise. Export enterprises were also authorized to use part of their export proceeds to finance their additional imports.


PORTUGAL

Import surcharge: continuation and extension

On 31 March 1977, the Portuguese Government published Government Decree No. 122-A/77 announcing the continuation of the import surcharge system, first introduced in May 1975, until 31 December 1977.

In June 1977, the Portuguese Government published a law extending the list of goods subject to import surcharge at 60 per cent to include various goods previously subject to a 30 per cent surcharge.

In January 1978 the surcharge was still being applied pending adoption of the 1978 budget.

Source: L/4568.
BOP/R/96, paragraph 22.

Import quota system for some consumer goods and motor vehicles


Source: L/4568/Add.1 and 2.

Import deposit scheme

The import deposit scheme established in October 1976 was abolished with effect from 1 January 1978.

Source: Statement of the representative of Portugal at the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions (BOP/R/96).
PORTUGAL (cont'd)

Other balance-of-payments safeguard measures

Other measures taken by the Portuguese authorities with the aim of dealing with balance-of-payments and general economic difficulties included:

(i) new lists of the Purchase and Sales Tax Code and an additional 20 per cent tax (Decree-Law 75-G/77 of 28 February 1977);
(ii) prohibition of the premature settlement of imports (circular letter 64-19/ORE/CE of 18 August 1977);
(iii) aggravation of consumer credit with a surtax of 8 per cent/10 per cent (Notice No. 13 of 29 August 1977);
(iv) simplification of the drawback régime in respect of exports (Decree Law No. 75-L/77 of 28 February 1977);
(v) simplification of the procedures for the conclusion of export development contracts (Decree-Law No. 213/77 of 26 May 1977);
(vi) transformation of the Exports Development Fund into the Portuguese Institute for Exports Development (Decree-Law No. 321/77 of 6 August 1977);
(vii) bonused interest rates for exports (Notice No. 10 of 29 August 1977);
(viii) establishment of a Guarantee Fund for exchange risk.

Source: BOP/182/Add.1.

1977 Import plan for certain foodstuffs

In February 1977, it was announced that the Portuguese Council of Ministers had placed ceilings totalling Esc 27.5 billion on imports of meat and dairy products, fish, oilseeds, etc., cereals, potatoes and sugar and alcohol. The bodies designated as responsible for importing these products were authorized to acquire up to 70 per cent of the approved totals.


Import licensing alterations

The Portuguese authorities introduced alterations to their import licensing system in August and October 1977. As a result all imports of goods subject to import deposit would require an import licence regardless of the value of the consignment.

BOP/R/96, paragraph 17.
PORTUGAL (cont'd)

Credit arrangements for imports

Effective 1 January 1977, the Bank of Portugal introduced new credit arrangements for imports. Under these arrangements, imports were divided into three main categories: essential goods for which 100 per cent credit could be provided; non-essential goods for which no credit, either internal or external, would be permitted; and capital goods for which a proportion of the credit must be obtained from foreign sources.

These arrangements were subsequently revised in April 1977. Certain changes were made in the classification of goods for credit purposes. In addition, the treatment of capital goods was altered, 100 per cent domestic credit being allowed for orders of up to Esc 15 million f.o.b.


Bulk imports of powdered milk

Under a ministerial order of June 1977, it was decided that all imports in bulk of powdered milk would be handled by the Junta Nacional dos Productos Pecuarios. An import ceiling of 5,000 tons was established for 1977.


ROMANIA

Customs tariff: definitive application and liberalization

The Romanian customs tariff, which was brought into force on an experimental basis on 1 January 1974, was applied definitively as from 1 January 1977 in pursuance of Decree No. 395/1976.
ROMANIA (cont'd)

Amendments made by Decree No. 395/1976 to Romanian customs regulations were:

(a) 121 tariff headings and sub-headings were exempted from the application of import duties;

(b) for an unspecified period, customs duties would not be applicable on imports of raw materials and other materials, nor on imports of assemblies, sub-assemblies and spare parts intended for production, repair and servicing, totalling approximately 500 partial or complete tariff headings and sub-headings;

(c) tariff reductions of up to 70 to 80 per cent have been established in respect of machines, tools, complex installations, assemblies, sub-assemblies and spare parts;

(d) certain new import facilities were provided.

Source: L/4463.

SENEGAL

Duty exemptions

The Government of Senegal exempted from customs duty the goods under the following CCCN Nos.:

07.01; 07.05; 10.01; 10.05; 10.06; 10.07; 12.01; 12.03; 17.01;
24.01; 28.02; 28.16; 28.17; 29.01; 32.05; 38.11; 85.13; 85.15;
87.11; 87.13; 89.01; 94.02; 98.03; 98.04; 98.05; 98.06; and all goods under chapters 01; 30; 31; 37; 49; and 88.


SIERRA LEONE

Customs tariff changes

Sierra Leone has issued a new customs tariff, effective from 10 October 1977, which amends the rate of duty payable on almost all items.

SOUTH AFRICA

Modifications in import duties

Tariff increases for certain products were reported in the South African Government Gazette of 24 June, 15 July, 7 October and 28 October 1977. The products affected include inter alia: spring washers, gloves, petroleum products, copper tubes and pipes, pallet trucks, etc.


Customs valuation: adoption of Brussels Definition

The South African authorities decided to adopt as from 1 October 1977 on an f.o.b. basis the definition of customs valuation contained in the Convention of Brussels on customs valuation of 15 December 1950.


Import deposit scheme: termination

The South African Government abolished its import deposit scheme as from 2 February 1977.


Import surcharge: introduction

In the South African budget, presented on 30 March 1977, it was announced that there would be an ad valorem surcharge of 15 per cent with immediate effect on all imports except those subject to GATT bindings and certain other agreements and customs conventions to which South Africa was a party. The only other exceptions would be imports by central government departments and provincial administrations, and certain petroleum products. The list of tariff headings attracting the import surcharge was amended in July and November 1977.

Source: Trade and Industry, 8 April, 26 August and 16 December 1977.

Import control and permit issues: arrangements for 1977

The South African Minister of Economic Affairs, in announcing details of the import control arrangements for 1977, is reported as stating that the import control policy for 1977 would be along the lines applied during 1976.
SOUTH AFRICA (cont'd)

A first round of import permits for 1977 was issued following the announcement. Subsequent rounds were issued following announcements in July and October 1977, bringing the total value of those issued in 1977 to 100 per cent of the 1976 allocation.


SPAIN

Duty-free import quotas

Royal decree 1934/1977 (Spanish State Gazette of 8 July 1977) established a duty-free quota for the importation of 360 tonnes of extruded polypropylene tubes (CCCN 39.02.L.2 and 39.07.B.3) and it increased by 500,000 tons the import quota for coal (CCCN 27.01.A).

In June 1977, a quota for 1977 for the importation into Spain free of import duty of 210,000 metric tons of coke of coal with grain size measurement less than 80 m.m. (CCCN heading 27.04) to be used by the integrated steel companies was established.

Royal decree 2425/1977 (Spanish State Gazette of 23 September 1977) established duty-free import quotas for certain iron and steel products under the tariff heading CCCN 73.

Furthermore, Royal decree 2423/1977 (Spanish State Gazette of 23 September 1977) increased by 12,000 metric tons the duty-free quota for imports of unalloyed unwrought aluminium (CCCN 76.01.A1) and extended the validity of the quota to 31 December 1977.

Royal decree 2424/1977 (Spanish State Gazette of 23 September 1977) established a duty-free quota of 5,000 tons of cellulose acetate flakes (CCCN 39.03.C1b).

Source: Trade and Industry, 8 July, 29 July and 11 November 1977

Temporary suspension of import duty on butadiene and raw cocoa beans

Royal decree 1415/1977 (Spanish State Gazette of 24 June 1977) suspended the import duty on CCCN 29.01.A.1 (butadienne) from 10 May to 9 August 1977.

Royal decree 1214/1977 (Spanish State Gazette of 1 July 1977) suspended the import duty on CCCN 18.01.A (raw cocoa beans) from 21 June to 20 September 1977.
SPAIN (cont'd)

Royal decree 16U3/1977 (Spanish State Gazette of 8 July 1977) suspended the import duty on moped and bicycle tyres and inner tubes (CCCN 40.11.B.3 and 40.11.C2d) for a period of three months from 8 July 1977.


Temporary import surcharge

The temporary import surcharge of 20 per cent, extended for six months until 11 October 1977 by Royal decree 612/1977, was abolished by Royal decree 1887/1977 (Spanish State Gazette of 27 July 1977).


SRI LANKA

State-trading relaxation: certain items

Sewing thread, window and plate glass and condensed milk may now be imported into Sri Lanka by the private sector. Previously these items could only be imported by State corporations.


Liberalized import régime, new customs tariff

The 1978 Sri Lanka budget, announced on 15 November 1977, introduced major economic reforms liberalizing import and exchange control regulations. The new import licence regulations permit a large number of goods to be imported freely without an import licence. The remaining items are divided into two categories: goods requiring an import licence; goods requiring prior approval if the value of each consignment exceeds Cey Rs 700,000. Former public sector monopolies have been withdrawn and both public and private sectors will compete for the import and distribution of commodities.

A new schedule of customs duties, with duty rates of free, 5, 12.5, 25, 50 and 100 per cent were announced. Under the new schedule, Commonwealth preferences were withdrawn.

The budget also announced a single exchange rate which would float from day to day. The systems of Foreign Exchange Entitlement Certificates and Convertible Rupee Accounts were abolished. Generally exchange transactions were eased and authorized dealers (commercial banks in Sri Lanka) may sell foreign exchange for most invisible payments without the prior approval of the Central Bank.

SUDAN

Customs duties reductions on cars, television sets, radios, watches

The following reductions in customs duties were announced by the official Sudanese news agency on 9 June 1977:

Cars (CCCN 87.02) reduced from 150 per cent to 100 per cent for the first thousand pounds and from 200 per cent to 150 per cent for the second thousand;

Television sets (CCCN 85.15) reduced from 100 per cent to 70 per cent;

Radios (CCCN 85.15) reduced from 80 per cent to 40 per cent;

Watches (CCCN 91.01) reduced from 100 per cent to 50 per cent.


SWEDEN

Import restrictions on footwear

A global import quota system for leather shoes, plastic shoes and rubber boots was introduced by Sweden on 5 November 1975. As of 1 July 1977, the import quota with respect to leather shoes and plastic shoes was terminated under a bill providing State support for the Swedish footwear industry.

Source: L/4250/Add.1.


Surveillance licensing of textile imports

The surveillance licensing scheme introduced on 1 January 1976 covering imports of a range of textiles and garments was rescinded in respect of goods originating in the EEC, with effect from 1 June 1977.


Unilateral restraints on textiles

Bilateral consultations have so far proved inconclusive with regard to imports into Sweden of blouses and shirts originating in India. Unilateral restrictions under Article 3:5 of the MFA were imposed by Sweden on blouses from 1 July 1976, and on woven cotton shirts from 19 April 1977. The main difficulty has been to agree on a definition of handloom cottage industry products.

Source: COM.TEX/SB/207, 225, 245.
SWEDEN (cont'd)

Quantitative restrictions under Article 3:5 of the MFA were imposed by Sweden on imports of woven blouses of cotton from Pakistan. These restrictions were applied from 4 April 1977. Despite several consultations no agreement has been reached between the two parties.

Source: COM.TEX/SB/245.

Tropical products/GSP improvements

Offers made by Sweden, on both GSP and MFN tariffs, in the framework of the multilateral trade negotiations on tropical products entered into force on 1 January 1977.

From 1 January 1977, Bangladesh, Barbados and Tonga were granted preferential treatment under the Swedish GSP, from 1 July 1977, Macao and Mozambique, and from 1 January 1978, Turkey.

Source: COM.TD/W/261.
L/4472 and Addendum 1.

SWITZERLAND

Extension of emergency action in regard to bottled white wine

Early 1978, the Swiss Federal Council renewed the measures introduced at the end of the first half of 1975 (and renewed in 1976 and 1977), in order to limit imports of bottled quality white wines recognized as specialities (tariff heading ex 2205.30). Import licences will be granted for a total of 65,000 quintals plus an additional 20,000 quintals set aside to cover hardship cases.

Source: L/4181 and Addenda 1-3.
SWITZERLAND (cont'd)

Import levies

Additional levies will be imposed on imports of grains and other feeds in order to limit imports and encourage domestic production.


Tropical products/GSP improvements

As a result of the Swiss offer made in the framework of the multilateral trade negotiations on tropical products, Switzerland effected improvements to its GSP involving some 145 items, with effect from 1 January 1977.

From the same date, the list of GSP beneficiary countries was extended to include Bulgaria, Romania, Viet-Nam and North Korea.

Source: L/4020/Add.1.

SYRIA

Customs duties increases

The Syrian authorities have announced increases in import duties for the following products (CCCN tariff Nos. in brackets):

beer (22.03), grape must (22.04), wine (22.05), vermouth (22.06), other fermented beverages (22.07), certain spirits (22.09)

With effect from 5 August 1977 all domestic refrigerators and refrigerating equipment (CCCN 84.15A) carry a rate of duty of 100 per cent ad valorem.


Import prohibition for certain motor cycles

The Syrian Government decree No. 524 of 31 August 1977 prohibits the imports of certain motor cycles under tariff heading No. 87.09.

SYRIA (cont'd)

Import prohibition: porcelain tiles and certain sanitary ware

By Government decree No. 690 of 6 November 1977, the Syrian Government prohibited the import of all types of porcelain tiles under tariff heading 69.08 and certain articles of sanitary ware under tariff item 69.10.


TANZANIA

Import licensing: liberalization

The Government of Tanzania has decided that spare parts for motor vehicles and agricultural equipment, and drugs and medicines for human or animal consumption would be put on open general licence.


THAILAND

Duty reduction for beans and peas

The tariff rate for green bean and cow peas (CCCN 07.05) has been reduced to 5 per cent.

Source: UT Sidste Nyt Nr, 33/77.

Temporary imposition of special import fees

The Thai Board of Investments imposed special import fees on a number of products at rates ranging from 10 to 40 per cent ad valorem. The special fees were to be effective for one year. The products affected include the following: bandages, caustic soda, laboratory glassware, electric motors, plasticizers, aluminium foil, viscose rayon fibre, menthol, telephone receivers, etc.

THAILAND (cont'd)

Import licensing: amendments

Effective 29 June 1977, all kinds of wood and wood conversions imported into Thailand required an import licence.

As from 6 June 1977 and until further notice, the Thai Government announced that anyone wishing to import coffee into Thailand could apply for import permits without having to purchase locally produced coffee.

The importation into Thailand of porcelain insulators was prohibited from 23 June 1977, unless permission had been obtained from the Minister of Commerce or a person authorized by him.


Import régime

Most goods may be imported freely into Thailand. On 2 August 1977, the Thai Department of Foreign Trade published a list of twenty-eight items subject to restriction (prohibition, control or licensing). The principal items concerned include tea, coffee, sugar, pepper, all types of wood, certain types of paper, heating oil, rice, steel bars, jute sacks, synthetic or artificial fibres, and certain chemicals.


TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Import licensing: certain products

The Trinidad and Tobago authorities have announced that licences are now required for the importation of air and oil filters for all types of motor vehicles and of certain plastic insulation cables and wire.

TUNISIA

Code of foreign exchange and foreign trade

Decree No. 77-608 of 27 July 1977 contains the conditions of application of law no. 76-18 of 21 January 1976 instituting a "code of foreign exchange and foreign trade in Tunisia". The decree contains the principles of the regulations applying to the export and import of goods and provisions relating to foreign exchange control.


TURKEY

Import deposits, increase

Cash guarantees which importers are required to deposit in respect of the import into Turkey of certain goods were increased from 20 per cent to 30 per cent of the value of import of goods on Liberalized List I and from 10 per cent to 15 per cent of the value of imports of goods on Liberalized List II.


Import régime 1977: amendments

Under the Turkish import régime for 1977, the total value of programmed imports was set at US$5,800 million, an increase of 45 per cent over 1976.

Amendments made to the import régime during 1977 include:

(i) the extension of the period of validity of import permits for goods on Liberalization List II from two to four months;

(ii) the raising of the ceiling for contingency quotas allocated by the Ministry of Commerce to US$1,000 for such individual case;

(iii) the authorization of commercial banks to extend the validity period of import permits by up to two months as and when needed;

(iv) the addition of eight items to Liberalization List I;

(v) the transfer of seventeen items from the global quota list to Liberalization List II;

(vi) the raising of the level of global quotas on eight items.

Source: BOP/179.
UNITED STATES

Anti-Subsidy Proceedings

Initiation of investigation to determine whether a bounty or grant is being paid

In October 1977, the United States Department of the Treasury initiated two investigations to determine whether a bounty or grant was being paid with respect to the following products:

- iron and steel chain and parts thereof originating in Japan;
- bromine and brominated compounds originating in Israel.

Source: Commerce America, 7 November 1977.

Preliminary determination of countervailing duty on leather handbags

In October 1977, the United States Department of the Treasury decided against imposing additional duties on imports of leather apparel from the Republic of Korea. Despite findings that Korean exporters had received some government export subsidies, the Treasury ruled that these were not sufficient to justify the imposition of countervailing duties.

On 1 November 1977 the Treasury Department issued a preliminary countervailing duty determination with respect to imports of leather handbags originating in Colombia.

On 7 December 1977, the Treasury Department issued a preliminary countervailing duty determination concerning imports of leather handbags from Uruguay. The notice also indicates the intention of the Treasury Department to issue a waiver of countervailing duties, contingent upon the Uruguayan Government's meeting certain conditions specified in the notice. There is also an intention to waive countervailing duties on imports of leather wearing apparel and non-rubber footwear from Uruguay, countervailing duty investigations of which are pending currently. The conditions to be met by the Uruguayan Government include the elimination in stages of the bounty derived from the tax rebate certificate programme.

Source: Federal Register, 1 November and 7 December 1977.
Final determination that a bounty or grant is being paid

In September 1977 the United States Department of the Treasury made a final determination under Section 303(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930 that a bounty or grant was being paid with respect to the following products:

- iron and steel chain, originating in Spain and Italy;
- butter cookies, originating in Denmark;
- non-rubber footwear, originating in Argentina;
- canned tomato and concentrates, originating in Italy.

Source: Tariffs and Trade, 9 September 1977.
Commerce America, 7 November 1977.

Final determination that a bounty or grant is not being paid

In September 1977 the United States Department of the Treasury made a final determination that a bounty or grant was not being paid with respect to grain-oriented silicon steel originating in Italy.

In November and in December 1977 the Treasury Department made a final determination that a bounty or grant was not being paid with respect to:

- certain handbags, originating in Taiwan;
- leather wearing apparel, originating in Taiwan.

Source: Commerce America, 7 November 1977.
Federal Register, 23 November and 30 December 1977.

Proceedings under anti-dumping or escape clause regulations

Withholding of appraisement

On 6 October 1977 the United States Treasury Department decided to withhold the appraisement of imports of polyvinyl chloride sheet and film originating in Taiwan. Appraisement for the purpose of determining the proper duties applicable to entries of this product will be suspended for six months.

On 6 October 1977, an anti-dumping investigation resulted in preliminary determination that carbon steel plate from Japan is being sold at less than fair value. Appraisement for the purpose of determining the proper duties applicable to entries of this product will be suspended for six months. The United States Treasury Department required the five Japanese firms concerned to post bonds to cover estimated dumping duties of about 32 per cent.
UNITED STATES (cont'd)

On 19 October 1977, the United States Treasury Department decided to withhold the appraisement of imports of viscose rayon stable fibre originating in Austria. Appraisement for the purpose of determining the proper duties applicable to entries of this product will be suspended for six months.

Source: Federal Register, 6 and 19 October 1977.
International Herald Tribune, 4 October 1977.

Determination of injury

In September 1977, the United States International Trade Commission reported to the Secretary of the Treasury its determination that a domestic industry was being or was likely to be injured by the importation of pressure-sensitive plastic tape from Italy.

On 29 October 1977, the International Trade Commission reported to the Secretary of the Treasury its determination that a domestic industry is being or is likely to be injured by the importation of animal glue and inedible gelatin from Yugoslavia, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the Federal Republic of Germany (except the product produced in the Federal Republic of Germany by Electro Chemische Fabrik Kempen G.m.b.H.).

Early November 1977, the International Trade Commission reported to the Secretary of the Treasury its determination that a domestic industry was being or was directly likely to be injured by the importation of railway track maintenance equipment originating in Austria.

In November 1977, the International Trade Commission made a determination of injury with respect to imports of high carbon ferro-chromium originating mainly in Brazil, Japan, South Africa and Yugoslavia.

On 12 December 1977, the International Trade Commission reported to the President its findings that imports of lag screws or bolts, primarily from Japan, were a substantial cause of serious injury or the threat thereof to domestic producers. The Commission recommended that ad valorem rates of duty be imposed on all the articles at a level of 30 per cent during the first two years of import relief and 25, 20 and 20 per cent respectively, for the subsequent three years.

Source: Federal Register, 16 August 1977;
United States International Trade Commission Publications 840, 844 and 847;
Tariffs and Trade, 9 September 1977;
Wall Street Journal, 23 November 1977;
L/4587, paragraph 27; L/4621;
COM.AD/45.
On 11 July 1977, the United States International Trade Commission reported to the President pursuant to the provisions of Section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974 that imports of low-carbon ferro-chromium originating in Japan, Rhodesia and South Africa were not causing serious injury or the threat thereof to the relevant United States industry.

On 28 July 1977, the International Trade Commission reported to the President, pursuant to the provisions of Section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974, that imports of casual and sport headwear, originating mostly in Hong Kong and the Republic of Korea, were not threatening or causing serious injury to a United States industry.

On 1 August 1977, the International Trade Commission reported to the President, pursuant to the provisions of Section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974, that imports of fresh cut flowers, originating in Colombia were not causing serious injury or the threat thereof to the relevant United States industry.

On 17 September 1977, the International Trade Commission reported to the President, pursuant to the provisions of Section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974, that imports of live cattle and certain edible meat products of cattle were not threatening or causing serious injury to a United States industry.

On 29 September 1977, the International Trade Commission reported to the President its unanimous finding that imports of malleable cast-iron pipe and tube fittings were not a substantial cause of serious injury or the threat of serious injury to the relevant United States industry. The Commission's investigation was initiated on 13 April 1977 following receipt of a petition by the American Pipe Fittings Association on behalf of the eight United States producers of malleable cast-iron pipe and tube fittings. Japan was the principal source of United States imports of such fittings from 1972 through 1976, accounting for two thirds to nine tenths of the total quantity imported.

On 13 October 1977, the International Trade Commission notified the Secretary of the Treasury that the pending Treasury Department anti-dumping investigation on methyl alcohol from Brazil could be terminated.

The Commission determined that there was no reasonable indication of injury or the likelihood of injury to an industry in the United States from imports of methyl alcohol from Brazil possibly sold at less than fair value. The Commission also found no reasonable indication that an industry was prevented from being established due to such imports.
UNITED STATES (cont'd)

Early November 1977, the International Trade Commission ordered the termination of the investigation of unfair import practices with respect to certain light shields for sonar apparatus, based on a determination that no violation of Section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, existed.

On 9 December 1977, the International Trade Commission reported to the Secretary of the Treasury its determination that a domestic industry was not being and was not likely to be injured by the imports of saccharin at less than fair value from Japan or from South Korea.


No determination of injury

On 25 July 1977, the United States International Trade Commission reported that it was equally divided as to whether the domestic industry producing cast-iron stoves, stove parts and fireplace grates, was being seriously injured as a result of increased imports originating mostly in the Republic of Korea and Taiwan. In such a case, the President may accept either the affirmative or the negative determination.

Source: L/4538.
United States International Trade Commission Publication 826.

Determination of dumping

In July 1977, the United States International Trade Commission determined that imports of self-propelled bituminous paving equipment originating in Canada had been sold at less than fair value.

On 22 December 1977, the United States Department of the Treasury determined that imports of animal glue and inedible gelatin originating in Yugoslavia, Sweden, the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany (except the product produced in the Federal Republic of Germany by Electro Chemische Fabrik Kempen G.m.b.H.) had been sold at less than fair value.

On 23 December 1977, the Treasury Department determined that imports of ice hockey sticks from Finland had been sold at less than fair value.

In December 1977 the Treasury Department determined that imports of impression fabric of man-made fibre from Japan, with the exception of the merchandise produced by two specified companies, was being or was likely to be sold at less than fair value.

Source: Federal Register, 22 and 23 December 1977.
Tariffs and Trade, 8 July 1977.
Initiation of investigations

In June 1977, the United States International Trade Commission initiated an investigation on a petition for "escape clause" import relief under Section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to fasteners originating mainly in Japan. The Commission conducted a similar investigation in 1974 and 1975, but issued a negative finding of injury.

On 19 October 1977, the United States Department of the Treasury decided to initiate an anti-dumping investigation with respect to imports of carbon steel wire rod, not tempered, not treated and not partly manufactured, from France.

On 22 December 1977, the Treasury Department decided to initiate an anti-dumping investigation with respect to imports of carbon steel wire rod, not tempered, not treated and not partly manufactured from the United Kingdom.

On 25 October 1977, the Treasury Department decided to initiate an anti-dumping investigation with respect to imports of certain structural carbon steel products originating in Japan. (The structural steel products under consideration include angles, shapes and sections of carbon steel classifiable under item number 609.80 of the Tariff Schedules of the United States.)

On 25 October 1977, the Treasury Department decided to initiate an anti-dumping investigation with respect to certain carbon steel pipes and tubes from Japan. (The pipes and tubes under consideration include welded pipes and tubes of carbon steel not over 4.5 inches in outside diameter, meant for use in other than boilers, super heaters, heat exchangers, condensers and feed water heaters, classifiable under item number 610.32 of the Tariff Schedules of the United States.)

On 25 October 1977, the Treasury Department decided to initiate an anti-dumping investigation with respect to imports of certain carbon steel plates from Japan. (The plates for carbon steel under consideration are classifiable under item numbers 608.84 - except carbon steel plate which is not in coils and which is classified under 608.84-608.87, 608.94 and 608.95 of the Tariff Schedules of the United States.)

On 1 November 1977, the Treasury Department decided to initiate an anti-dumping investigation with respect to imports of steel wire rope from the Republic of Korea.

On 16 November 1977, the Treasury Department decided to initiate an anti-dumping investigation with respect to imports of audible signal alarms originating in Japan.
On 23 November 1977, the Treasury Department decided to initiate an anti-dumping investigation with respect to steel wire strand for prestressed concrete originating in Japan and in India.

On 2 December 1977, the Treasury Department decided to initiate an anti-dumping investigation with respect to cold rolled and galvanized carbon steel sheets originating in France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

On 16 December 1977, the International Trade Commission initiated an investigation under section 201(b) of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to knives, forks, spoons and ladles, with stainless steel handles.

On 29 December 1977, the International Trade Commission initiated an investigation with respect to steel wire nails from Canada.


Other investigations initiated

The United States Treasury Department has furthermore initiated investigations with respect to the following products:

- cement originating in Canada;
- sorbates originating in Japan;
- citizen-band radios originating in Japan, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan;
- motorcycles of 90 cc. and larger originating in Japan.


Termination of three anti-dumping investigations

In October and November 1977, the United States Treasury Department terminated three anti-dumping investigations. The terminations were based on the fact that price undertakings, made at the time the investigations were
UNITED STATES (cont'd)

discontinued, had been honoured. One case involved large power transformers originating in Sweden, the second concerned imports of photo albums originating in Canada and the third concerned rubber thread originating in Italy.

Source: Commerce America, 7 November 1977
Federal Register, 17 November 1977.

Decision of no action with respect to high-carbon ferrochromium

On 1 December 1977, the United States International Trade Commission reported to the President its finding that imports of high-carbon ferrochromium, originating in Brazil, Japan, South Africa and Yugoslavia, were a substantial cause of the threat of serious injury to domestic producers. The Commission recommended the import duty be increased to 30 per cent ad valorem in addition to the existing rate for two years and then gradually be scaled down in subsequent years. Following consultations with interested GATT contracting parties under Article XIX and a review of other pertinent factors, President Carter determined that it would not be in the national economic interest to provide import relief to the domestic producers of high-carbon ferrochromium as recommended by the Commission.

Source: United States International Trade Commission Publication 845,
December 1977
L/4617 and Add.1.

Investigations under section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930

In the second half of 1977, the United States International Trade Commission initiated investigations of unfair trade practices under section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930 with respect to the following products:

- plastic fastener assemblies;
- certain moulded golf balls;
- food slicers;
- skateboards and platforms therefor;
- luggage products.

Source: Tariffs and Trade, 9 September 1977.

United States International Trade Commission Calendar of hearings and of deadline dates for pending investigations, 1 December 1977.
UNITED STATES (cont'd)

Increase of entry bonds with respect to TV sets

As from 7 April 1977, the United States Treasury Department ordered the entry bonds posted since 1971 by importers of TV sets originating in Japan to rise from 9 per cent to 20 per cent of the product value.


Voluntary export restraint with respect to colour and black and white TV sets

On 20 May 1977, Japan agreed to limit its exports of colour and black and white TV sets to the United States over the next three years, starting on 1 July 1977. The orderly marketing agreement restricts exports to 1.56 million complete units and 190,000 unassembled units. In July 1977, the United States had instituted a unilateral monitoring system on imports from Japan, Mexico, South Korea and Taiwan.

Source: International Herald Tribune, 21 May 1977; COM.AD/41 paragraph 17; L/4485 and Addendum 1.

Bilateral export restraint agreements concerning footwear

An agreement between the United States and the Republic of Korea limiting exports of certain footwear from South Korea to the United States has been concluded on 21 June 1977 on a four-year basis. This temporary restriction has been taken under GATT Article XIX. A similar agreement has been concluded with Taiwan on 14 June 1977.

Source: L/4477 and Addendum 1. L/4525.

Monitoring of bituminous coal and coke exports

Early December 1977, the United States Department of Commerce decided to introduce temporary monitoring of exports and contracts to export bituminous coal and coke derived from coal in the view of the anticipated reduction in coal production resulting from the strike which began 6 December 1977.

Source: L/4615.
UNITED STATES (cont'd)

Import fees and increased duty rates on sugar

The United States has, with effect from 11 November 1977, imposed import fees on sugar, syrups and molasses. At the same time, tariffs on certain sugars, syrups and molasses were also raised, and the new fees are charged in addition to the increased duty rates.

Source: L/4612.

Temporary ban with respect to foie gras

The United States Under-Secretary for Agriculture has decided to ban imports of foie gras from France so long as the French authorities fail to conform to United States health regulations.


Generalized System of Preferences: amendments

Forty-six new items with a 1976 trade coverage of US$8.1 million were added to the United States GSP in 1977. Certain changes were also made as a result of the implementation of the competitive need provisions of the Trade Act of 1974.

On 27 January 1977, revisions were made in the Customs Service Regulations regarding the Duty-Free Entry of Certain Merchandise from Designated Beneficiary Developing Countries, which liberalized the United States rules of origin.

In mid-1977, the United States Government rejected petitions for the removal of ten items from the coverage of its GSP.

In the Federal Register of 9 September 1977, the United States published new regulations on its GSP. The regulations provide for procedures aimed at facilitating the submission of requests by the governments of developing countries for the addition of products to the GSP and insuring that those requests are given full and careful consideration. The regulations also provide for a single comprehensive annual review of coverage rather than the semi-annual reviews.

Source: COM.TD/99; L/4299/Add.6 and 7; COM.TD/W/261.
UNITED STATES (cont'd)

Trigger price mechanism with respect to steel products

It is proposed to amend the United States Customs Regulations to require that a special invoice be presented to Customs for each shipment of certain articles of steel having an aggregate purchase price over US$2,500. The additional information provided by the special invoice would be used in the administration and enforcement of the Anti-Dumping Act, 1921, as amended. Acting under the authority of section 201(a) of the Anti-Dumping Act of 1921, as amended and section 153.25 of the Customs Regulations, the United States Secretary of the Treasury will implement a "trigger price mechanism" as recommended to, and approved by, the President on 6 December 1977. The trigger price mechanism ("TPM") will consist of four parts: (1) the establishment of trigger prices for steel mill products imported into the United States; (2) adoption of a new Special Summary Steel Invoice ("SSSI") applicable to imports of all steel mill products; (3) the continuous collection and analysis of data concerning (a) the cost of production and prices of steel mill products in the countries that are the principal exporters of such products to the United States, and (b) the condition of the domestic steel industry; and (4) where appropriate, the expedited initiation and disposition of proceedings under the Anti-Dumping Act of 1921 with respect to imports below the trigger prices.

The trigger price mechanism entered into force on 21 February 1978.

Source: Federal Register, 30 December 1977; L/4625 and Add.1.

URUGUAY

Import duties: phased reduction

A decree limits the maximum import duty on goods in competition with locally manufactured items to 65 per cent from 27 October 1977, 50 per cent from 1 January 1977 and 30 per cent from 1 January 1980.


Import and exchange surcharges

A decree of the Uruguayan Government of 2 March 1977 established a minimum surcharge of 10 per cent on all imported goods except those imported under the temporary admissions régime or precious metals in the form of coins or ingots.
URUGUAY (cont'd)

The exchange surcharge of 75 per cent, 120 per cent, 150 per cent and 200 per cent levied on certain goods was reduced to 65 per cent, 90 per cent, 110 per cent and 150 per cent respectively.

The 7 per cent additional surcharge has been abolished.


Extension of exemption from import charges

A decree of the Uruguayan Government of 24 June 1977 extended the exemption of imports of refrigeration chambers and parts from the payment of surcharges (except the 10 per cent minimum surcharge), port charges, the 18 per cent additional import tax and any other import tax until 31 December 1977.

A decree of 10 June 1977 extended the concession exempting agricultural machinery from the payment of consular charges and port charges until 21 December 1977.


VENEZUELA

Import licensing and duties: re-imposed on certain products

The Venezuelan Government has announced that the temporary exemption from import duty and licensing no longer applies to processed meat and vinegar.


Cheese imports suspended

Duty-free imports of cheese were suspended from 31 August 1977. The measure is temporary and will be followed by licensing requirements for cheese.

Source: UT Sidste Nyt Nr. 35/77.

Minimum prices for customs valuation: photocopying paper

A Venezuelan Government resolution of 14 March 1977 established reference prices for imports of photocopying paper for the purposes of customs valuation. The duty on photocopying paper is 100 per cent ad valorem.

VENEZUELA (cont'd)

Government procurement regulations: amendments

Under a decree of 1 February 1977 announcing changes in the regulations governing government purchases of foreign products, the central Government, autonomous institutes, State enterprises and other State agencies are required to buy goods of local manufacture, provided that they are not more expensive than similar imported products on which duty charged is more than 20 per cent.


YUGOSLAVIA

Duty reductions

Official Gazette 31 announces the applicability in 1977 of the 1976 resolution providing for reduced duties on imported parts and components for manufacture of cars, and for reduced duties on imported raw materials, primary products and semi-manufactures and spares for use by the shipbuilding industry and heavy machine industry.


Import tax increase

With effect from 1 January 1977, the special equalization tax on imports into Yugoslavia was increased from 5 per cent to 6 per cent.


Foreign exchange quotas

The global foreign exchange quota for imports into Yugoslavia in 1977 of raw materials, primary products and semi-manufactured goods and spares for maintenance requirements was fixed at 100 per cent of the amount allocated in 1976. In the case of such products for current maintenance requirements, the global foreign exchange quota for 1977 was set at Din 150 million.

The global foreign exchange quota for 1977 for purchase of display goods by promoters of trade fairs in Yugoslavia was established at Din 34 million.

Source: Trade and Industry of 8 April and 18 October 1977.
ZAIRE

Import licensing

In information issued by the Bank of Zaire, it was announced that the following goods could be imported into Zaire without an import licence: basic foodstuffs; essential trade goods; pharmaceuticals (excluding cosmetics and toiletries); raw materials for industry and packing materials; and industrial spares. All other goods would remain subject to import licensing and applications for the import of goods capable of being produced locally would be carefully examined. A temporary import prohibition had been imposed on a few products. Banks would be held responsible for putting imported goods into distribution and import deposits were abolished.


Import prohibition: certain textiles and garments

The Zaire Government has prohibited the importation of: synthetic fabric of polyester and wool (ex CCCN 51.04, ex 56.07); synthetic fabrics of 100 per cent polyester or other materials (ex 51.04, ex 56.07); trousers and short-sleeved suits (ex 61.01, ex 56.07); shirts (ex 61.03, ex 56.07); and socks (ex 61.10, ex 56.07).  

Source: Trade and Industry, 24 June 1977  
Moniteur du Commerce International, 11 July 1977
BILATERAL AND REGIONAL AGREEMENTS

Agreement on ASEAN Preferential Trading Arrangements

Parties to the Agreement: The five member States of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN - Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Entry into force: 31 August 1977

Coverage: The preferential trading arrangements cover long-term quantity contracts; purchase finance support at preferential interest rates; preference in procurement by government entities; extension of tariff preferences; liberalization of non-tariff measures on a preferential basis; and other measures. The preferential arrangements are applied to basic commodities, particularly rice and crude oil; to products of the ASEAN industrial projects; to products for the expansion of intra-ASEAN trade; and to other products of interest to ASEAN member States.

Source: L/4581.

Agreement on Trade and Commercial Relations between Australia and Papua New Guinea

Entry into force: 1 February 1977

Coverage: The Agreement establishes a free-trade area which consists of Papua New Guinea and Australia. Substantially all the trade between Australia and Papua New Guinea is already free of restrictive duties and regulations of commerce. The new Agreement provides for a continuation of this situation, and ensures that Papua New Guinea is not, by virtue of attaining independence, placed in a less advantageous position in relation to its trade with Australia than before independence. Papua New Guinea will itself continue to apply (including in respect of imports from Australia) a one-column customs tariff to that relatively small proportion of its imports to which protective tariffs apply.

Source: L/4451 and Add.1.
Agreements between the European Communities and Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria

Entry into force: The Interim Agreements providing for advance implementation of the arrangements relating to trade entered into force 1 July 1977.

Coverage: The European Communities told the GATT Council in May 1977 that the purpose of the Agreements was broad co-operation in order to contribute to the economic and social development of the four Machrek countries, and to strengthen the relationship between them and the European Communities.

The purpose of the Agreements, in the field of trade, was to promote trade between the parties concerned, taking into account their different levels of development, and to improve conditions of access for the goods of these countries to the Community market. No reciprocity was required from these countries in respect of access of Community goods to their markets. These goods would merely receive m.f.n. treatment.

Source: L/4521, L/4522, L/4523, L/4524.

Agreement between the European Economic Community and Norway

Under the terms of an exchange of letters between the parties to the Norway/EEC trade agreements, further duty reductions have been made from 1 January 1978 on certain agricultural goods from the enlarged EEC (and in some cases from other EFTA countries) falling under the following tariff numbers: 06.01-04; 07.01; 08.06-08; 12.03.


Agreement between the European Economic Community and Malta

On 1 January 1978 a new Protocol came into force extending the first stage of the 1971 EEC/Malta Agreement until the end of 1980. The Protocol also contains certain supplementary provisions. Most industrial goods from Malta will have duty-free entry to the EEC, whereas previously they had been eligible under the Agreement for a 70 per cent reduction in import duties. There are also additional concessions on a few processed foodstuffs. Duty-free entry for some textiles and clothing will be limited to annual Community ceilings, outside which full duties will be payable.

United States-Mexico Trade Agreement

Signed: 2 December 1977. (The Agreement is expected to enter into force between 1 January and 1 March 1978.)

Coverage: The Agreement is the first formal trade pact to be concluded between the US and Mexico since 1942. Although the Agreement developed from requests and offers in the "Tropical Products" negotiating group of the MTN, it encompasses a broader spectrum of trade.

The Agreement provides for tariff concessions in the form of import duty reductions on Mexican exports to the US of agricultural products and handicrafts valued at approximately $63 million. The Agreement further provides, in return, for trade concessions on $36 million worth of US exports to Mexico, also primarily agricultural products and certain tools and motors.

The Mexican concessions consist of liberalized import licences and tariff bindings.

The Agreement is expected to take effect between 1 January and 1 March 1978, after ratification by the Government of Mexico, and issuance of a US presidential proclamation under the Trade Act.

US and Mexican concessions granted under the Agreement will be extended automatically to all other nations whose exports receive reciprocal "most-favored-nation" equal trade treatment by Mexico and the United States. Although Mexico is not a signatory of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the Agreement preserves US rights under the GATT.