GATT

SURVEY OF DEVELOPMENTS

IN

COMMERCIAL POLICY

January-April 1978

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PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION USED IN THE SURVEY

Africa Research Bulletin
   Africa Research Ltd., Exeter, England

Asia Research Bulletin
   Asia Research Pte. Ltd., Singapore

Bank of London and South America Review
   Lloyds Bank Int. Ltd., London

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

Deutsches Handelsarchiv
   Bundesstelle für Aussenhandelsinformationen, Cologne

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

European Report
   Société d'Éditions Economiques Mondiales, Brussels

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

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

Foreign Agriculture
   United States Department of Agriculture, 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

World Trade Bulletin
New York Chamber of Commerce and Industry, New York, N.Y.

In addition various newspapers have been used. GATT documents are referred to by their symbol only.
SURVEY OF DEVELOPMENTS IN COMMERCIAL POLICY
JANUARY-APRIL 1978

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.

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<td>Bilateral and regional agreements</td>
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</table>
AFGHANISTAN

Visa of commercial invoices

The consular services of the Embassy of the Republic of Afghanistan have indicated that in future the shipment of goods to Afghanistan must be accompanied by commercial invoices visaed by the competent Chambers of Commerce and Industry.


ALGERIA

Modification of the fiscal and customs régime

Law No. 77-02 of 31 December 1977, published in the Journal Officiel of 31 December 1977, introduced various modifications to the fiscal and customs régime of Algeria for 1978. The rates of customs duty on imports have been increased by variable percentages on goods such as cheese, eggs, fruit, certain household goods, certain textiles, jewellery, coloured television sets, etc. The rates of customs duty and the production tax on goods bought by the Ministry for Youth and Sport have been reduced to 3 per cent and 7.52 per cent respectively. The customs duty and the production tax have been suspended until 31 December 1978 on widely consumed products such as coffee, oilseeds and vegetable oils, sugar, spaghetti, macaroni and the like, leguminous and dried vegetables, flour, etc.


State monopoly on foreign trade

Law No. 78.02 of 11 February 1978, published in the Journal Officiel of 14 February 1978, has instituted a State Monopoly on the foreign trade of Algeria. Contracts and transactions of imports or exports of goods, supplies or services can henceforth be concluded with a foreign firm only by the State or by a State body. A decree will designate the State bodies charged with the implementation of the monopoly by defining the purpose as well as the means and obligations necessary for their operation.

Source: Moniteur du Commerce international, 17 April 1978.
ALGERIA (cont'd)

Import restrictions

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. As a result of this measure nearly all goods imported into Algeria are subject to quotas or to monopolies.


ARGENTINA

Tariff reductions

The Ministry of Economy Resolution 191, published on 31 January 1978 in the "Boletin Oficial", introduced tariff reductions to different products contained in chapters 84 and 85 of the customs tariff. Products previously subject to a rate of duty of 65 per cent are now to a large extent subject to a rate of 40 per cent. The reductions are mostly applied to products containing materials which are not produced locally. The new rates will be applied until 1 July 1978, following that date they will be reduced to 10 per cent.


AUSTRALIA

Duty increase: screws for wood

Following a report from the Temporary Assistance Authority, the Australian Government has increased the general rate of import duty on wood screws falling under tariff items 73.32.910 (steel) and 74.15 (copper) to 40 per cent. In addition, eligibility for preferential duties on these items was withdrawn from certain developing countries. Imports from New Zealand and Papua New Guinea are not affected by the new duties.

AUSTRALIA (cont'd)

Tariff reductions: amendments

Survey of Developments in Commercial Policy No. 1, page 7 gave a list of tariff reductions which is to be amended as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electric control apparatus and insulating fittings such as Wall plugs, fuses, etc.</th>
<th>Old general rate</th>
<th>New general rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ceramic insulators for spark plugs</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goods of artificial plastic material</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starter switches for fluorescent lamps</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stranded wire etc.</td>
<td>9% plus</td>
<td>5% plus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$A 82.50 per t.</td>
<td>$A 75 per t.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1Within this item there was a tariff increase for goods of mica.

Source: Trade and Industry, 12 August and 11 November 1977; information provided by the Permanent Mission of Australia.

Increased duty: maintenance of import restrictions: files and rasps

Following consideration of a report from the Industries Assistance Commission, the Australian Government has decided to increase the long-term rate of import duty on files and rasps falling under tariff item 82.03.300 and to continue temporary quantitative import restrictions. The new rate of duty is 30 per cent, applicable to both the general and the preferential tariffs. Imports are to be restricted to a 75,000 dozen for the calendar year year 1978 and it has been decided to include round blunt chainsaw files within the scope of the temporary import restrictions. The temporary import restrictions have been notified to GATT under Article XIX.

Source: L/4351/Add.2 Trade and Industry, 7 April 1978.

Increased duties on fork lift trucks: correction

Survey of Developments in Commercial Policy No. 1, page 9, referred to a temporary increase in duties on certain works trucks with a lifting capacity of between 1,500 kgs. and 4,000 kgs. The duty of $A 2,500 per vehicle mentioned is an additional duty applicable on top of the pre-existing duty of 30 per cent or $A 800 per vehicle, and does not constitute, as indicated, the total duty now payable.

AUSTRALIA (cont'd)

Survey of Developments in Commercial Policy No. 1: corrections

In respect of the entry, Tariff quotas 1977/78: certain textiles, apparel and footwear items (page 11), the Australian authorities have informed the secretariat that the levels of supplementary quotas allocated for the six months to 31 August 1978 in respect of textiles and apparel and to 30 June 1978 in respect of footwear varied for different items. While some supplementary quotas represented a decrease on the previous levels, some quota allocations remained at the same level.

In respect of the extension of tariff quota arrangements to men's and boys' overalls referred to under the entry, Textiles, clothing and footwear: three-year assistance programme, (page 12), tariff quotas would only be introduced when imports exceeded a specified level. Furthermore the tariff quotas on certain yarns and woven fabrics containing wool referred to in the item, Tariff quotas and bounty payments: yarns and fabrics, would only operate when imports reached certain specified trigger levels. Imports of certain wool worsted and wool blend yarns have now exceeded this trigger level and tariff quotas on these items have been applied - see entry below.

Tariff quotas: certain wool worsted yarns and wool blend yarns

The Australian Government has decided to apply an additional duty of $A 2.50 per kg. to some imports of wool worsted yarns and wool blend yarns when imports of both wool worsted and wool blend yarns exceed an annual level of 1.1 million kgs. The new duty arrangements apply to import clearances on and after 1 March 1978.

The introduction of tariff quota arrangements on wool worsted yarns was notified to GATT under the provisions of Article XIX.

Source: L/4659

Continuation of temporary duty and tariff quota: brandy

The Australian Government has decided, in the light of a report from the Industries Assistance Commission, to maintain in force for a further six months from 22 February 1978 the temporary assistance arrangements for brandy, comprising an additional duty on all imports and a further temporary additional duty on imports in excess of a tariff quota.

AUSTRALIA (cont'd)

Anti-dumping investigations recently initiated

- Phtalic anhydride, from the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy the Philippines and the United Kingdom;
- lubrication nipples, from the United Kingdom;
- polypropylene resins, tariff item 39.02.16, from Japan;
- paper and paperboard, from Finland, Sweden and Canada;
- sealed refrigeration compressors, from Japan;
- cold rolled steel plates, sheets and coils, from the Republic of Korea.


Termination of anti-dumping proceedings

The Australian Government has terminated anti-dumping proceedings regarding imports of sodium tripolyphosphate, sodium acid pyrophosphate, and sodium hexametaphosphate. The termination resulted from price assurances given by the United States producer.

Source: Commerce America, 27 March 1978.

Reference to Temporary Assistance Authority: sheet steel and insulators

The Australian Government has referred to the Temporary Assistance Authority for inquiry and report, requests for temporary protection against imports of:

- insulators falling within tariff items 85.25.100 and 85.25.900
- uncoated hot rolled steel sheets and plates (including coils) not exceeding 3.2 mm. thickness of a kind falling within item 73.13.100
- uncoated cold rolled steel sheets and plate (including coils) of a kind falling within item 73.13.100
- galvanized steel sheets, plates, strips and hoops (including coils and corrugated forms) of a kind falling within item 73.12.190 or 73.13.300
- terne alloy-coated steel sheets and plates (including coils) of a kind falling within item 73.13.200.

Source: Trade and Industry, 21 April and 5 May 1978.
AUSTRALIA (cont'd)

Quantitative restriction: double-edged safety razor blades

Following consideration of a report from the Industries Assistance Commission, the Australian Government has introduced, with effect from 21 April 1978, temporary quantitative restrictions on imports of double-edged safety razor blades. Imports cleared for home consumption are to be restricted for two years unless local production of razor blades is discontinued within this period. For the first year imports will be restricted to 16 million. Quota allocations for the second year are to be determined later.

Source: L/4666.

Lifting of import ban: second-hand fishing vessels

The Australian Government has announced that the ban on the import of second-hand fishing vessels has been lifted so as to allow the importation during the period 12 April 1978 to 31 March 1980 of up to twenty vessels.


No temporary protection: spectacle and sunglass frames and spanners

Survey of Developments in Commercial Policy No. 1, page 14, reported the decisions of the Australian Government to refer to the Temporary Assistance Authority requests for temporary protection against imports of spectacle and sunglass frames (tariff item 90.03.100) and against certain non-adjustable spanners falling within tariff item 82.03.299. The Government has accepted the Temporary Assistance Authority's recommendations that no urgent action was necessary to protect the local industries concerned.


BANGLADESH

Import policy: January-June 1978

The Bangladesh authorities set a figure of Taka 6,540 million for imports during the shipping period January-June 1978, Taka 140 million higher than in the previous six months period.

Priority was given to the importation of essential raw materials and spare parts for the industrial sector.

BAHRAIN

Import restriction

With effect from 1 February 1978, the Ministry of Health (order 6/1977) has banned the importation of all pharmaceutical preparations containing hormones (stilbene derivatives, synthetic estrogens).


BARBADOS

Introduction of import licensing

Import licences are now required by the Barbados authorities for woven wall hangings of cotton twine and woven place mats of cotton (62.05).


Abolition of import licences for motor cycles

The Barbados authorities abolished import licences for motor cycles, auto-cycles and cycles fitted with an auxiliary motor classified under tariff No. 87.09.


BENIN

New customs tariff

A new customs tariff was instituted in Benin by order 78-02 of 9 February 1978 which entered into effect on that date. This tariff, which is applicable uniformly to products and goods from all sources and origins comprises a customs duty called "customs surcharge" and a fiscal entry tax. The levy of the customs surcharge has been suspended since 9 February 1978. The additional taxes to be paid on entry into Benin (stamp tax, special amortization tax, temporary equipment tax, specific tax) remain in effect.

BOLIVIA

Import permits for alcohol

Supreme Decree 15272 of 31 January 1978 permits the import of alcohol within the tariff No. 22.09, with the exception of certain spirits made from grapes. The ad valorem duty is 30 per cent, but with additional taxes it amounts to 135 per cent.


BRAZIL

Modifications in customs duties

Import duties were increased in respect of a number of chemical products, acrylic fibres, cord and gauze, clinical thermometers, natural calcium phosphates, copper powder (Customs Policy Council Resolutions Nos. 3068, 3071, 3072, 3074, 3091, 3092, 3093, 3096, 3098, 3099, 3100, 3102, 3103, 3108).


Exempt from import duties were a quota of 27,923 tonnes of asbestos fibre until 30 June 1978, petroleum coke until 16 January 1979, natural calcium phosphates under certain conditions, cinematographic equipment until 31 December 1980, all imports intended for Petrobras, several chemical products some for limited periods, soya beans until 3 December 1978, a quota of 57,689 60 kgs. bags of coffee beans and 4,200,000 tonnes of wheat with husk. (Customs Policy Council Resolutions Nos. 3067, 3079, 3080, 3084, 3073, 3116, 3111, 3114, 3117, 3119, 3121, and Decree Law 1591). Under Resolution 3082 the duty exemption on agricultural chemicals, when they are intended for the manufacture or preparation of insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and the like for export was extended.


Duties were reduced on parts for watches from 45 to 15 per cent, on low density polyethylene from 45 to 25 per cent, on vanadium pentoxide from 15 to 5 per cent for two years until 17 February 1980, on certain catalysts from 15 per cent to 0 per cent. (Customs Policy Council Resolutions Nos. 3065, 3083, 3095 and 3097).

BRAZIL (cont'd)

Prohibition of imports of certain machinery

Cacex communication 782/2 of 2 January 1978 prohibited imports of machinery and equipment for crushing soya grain, castor seed, cocoa beans, for orange juice extraction and for the production of bale twine and textiles. These restrictions were relaxed by communication 78/8 of 21 February 1978 and in certain cases import licences will be issued for equipment not having a national equivalent.


Import licences

The Bank of Brazil introduced in communication No. 78/2 an import licensing system for a large number of products, including certain fats and vegetable oils, vegetable products, wood products, hair clippers, money counting machines, watches and parts of watches, certain sound reproduction equipment, open air recreation equipment and other goods.


CANADA

Customs tariff reductions

Temporary tariff reductions on a wide range of goods, initially introduced as an anti-inflationary measure in the 1973 budget and scheduled to expire 30 June 1978 are being extended to 30 June 1979. Exceptions to this extension are canned and frozen asparagus and frozen Brussels sprouts for which the Canadian Tariff Board has recommended increased protection, glass tableware which a Canadian manufacturer intends producing in increased quantities if the pre-1973 rate is restored, and surface-active agents or synthetic detergents which are now being imported in such increased quantities as to threaten continued expansion of production in Canada. The temporary rate of 10 per cent on certain canned meats will also expire at the end of June; it will be replaced by a 15 per cent rate which is more in line with the rates on other meat products and the needs of the industry but still substantially lower than the pre-1973 rates. Importations of the products on which tariff reductions are being continued were valued at about $1.5 billion in 1977. The main trade items are raw sugar, motor vehicle parts, cameras and films, vacuum cleaners, pharmaceuticals, chinaware, bottles and hand tools. The temporary duty-free provisions covering aircraft and aircraft engines of types or sizes not made in Canada initially established in 1952 and scheduled to expire on 30 June 1978, are to be continued for another year. Free entry is also being proposed for markers used in the aerial spraying or dusting of crops and for catgut used mainly for stringing sports racquets. An existing free-entry provision for fatty alcohols for synthetic detergents is being extended to cover fatty alcohols used to make all kinds of surface-active agents. A reduction from 20 per cent to 15 per cent is proposed for certain parts for electric light fixtures to help Canadian manufacturers compete with imports.
Customs tariff increases

Benefits of the British preferential tariff will be withdrawn from certain products imported into Canada from the United Kingdom and Ireland. These goods include confectionery, cranes for mounting on trucks, certain diesel engines, certain apparatus used in community antenna television transmission lines and knitted garments.


Anti-dumping investigations recently initiated

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

- pre-painted, free-standing, metal utility shelving for light duty residential use; of bolted assembly with or without customizing accessories; and including component parts and accessories exported from or originating in the United States, on 26 April 1978;

- stainless steel pipe and tubing from Japan, Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany and Sweden, on 27 April 1978.

Source: Notice of investigations, Department of National Revenue, Customs and Excise, 26 and 27 April 1978.

Preliminary determinations of dumping

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

- integral induction motors, from the United States, on 6 April 1978;

- steel wire rope, from Japan and the Republic of Korea, on 7 April 1978.

Source: Notice of preliminary determination of dumping, Department of International Revenue, Customs and Excise, 6 and 7 April 1978.
Final determinations of dumping and injury

Findings of injury

The Canadian Anti-Dumping Tribunal determined that the dumping into Canada of the following products had caused, was causing and was likely to cause material injury to the production in Canada of like goods:

- ball-type metal furniture casters from the Republic of Korea, on 6 January 1978;
- stainless steel plate from Japan and South Africa, on 13 January 1978;
- slate bed billiards, pool and snooker tables from the United States, on 10 February 1978;
- hermetic compressors from Singapore, on 21 April 1978.

Findings of no injury

The Anti-Dumping Tribunal determined that the dumping into Canada of the following products had not caused, was not causing nor was likely to cause material injury to the production in Canada of like goods:

- ball-type metal furniture casters from Japan, on 6 January 1978;
- stainless steel plate from the Federal Republic of Germany, on 13 January 1978;
- maleic anhydride from Belgium, France and Japan, on 25 January 1978;
- certain forged steel gates from the United Kingdom, on 28 February 1978;
- hermetic compressors from Italy, on 21 April 1978.

Findings of likelihood of injury

The Anti-Dumping Tribunal determined that the dumping into Canada of the following products were likely to cause material injury:

- stainless steel sheet from the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan, not including cold-rolled sheet in grades AISI 409, AISI 410 S and AISI 434, on 13 January 1978;
CANADA (cont'd)

- maleic anhydride from Italy, the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany, on 25 January 1978;
- electric slow cookers from Japan and Hong Kong with the exception of the 32 ounce electric slow cookers, on 25 April 1978.


Anti-dumping proceedings with respect to polyester filament yarn

On 31 January 1978, the Canadian Department of National Revenue, Customs and Excise issued an anti-dumping notice with respect to textured or bulked polyester filament yarn from Austria, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Switzerland and the United States, indicating that:

(a) for yarns in the range of 101 to 200 deniers a final duty not exceeding the provisional one, applied during the period 1 December 1977-2 March 1978, would be applied for products imported during that period and a duty corresponding to the full dumping margin would be applied for imports after 2 March 1978;

(b) for yarns in the range of 100 deniers or less, provisional duties will be reimbursed and final duties collected on products imported after 2 March 1978;

(c) for yarns above 200 deniers, provisional duties will be reimbursed and no duties collected from 2 March 1978.

Source: Notice of partial termination of proceedings, Department of National Revenue, Customs and Excise, 31 January 1978.

Termination of anti-dumping investigations

The Canadian Department of National Revenue, Customs and Excise has terminated the anti-dumping investigations with respect to:
- bicycle tyres from the Republic of Korea, on 25 January 1978;
- consumer adhesives from the United States, in March 1978.

Source: Notice of termination of investigation, Department of National Revenue, Customs and Excise, 25 January 1978.

Remission of anti-dumping duties

The Canadian Government has announced a remission of its provisional anti-dumping duties on imports of wide flanged steel from France, Japan, Luxembourg, South Africa and the United Kingdom, for a nine-month period until 29 June 1978. The duties were applied on 29 September 1977.


Introduction of special measures against the dumping of steel

The Canadian Government is introducing the following special measures to deter the dumping of steel and to deal more rapidly with dumped steel imports:

- the monitoring of all imports of steel mill products into Canada so that changes in import levels may be identified at an early stage.

- the establishment of a task force to analyze the import data and to collect information on a continuing basis concerning the state of various Canadian steel sectors and with respect to foreign producers' prices and market situations.

- use by the Deputy Minister, Customs and Excise Department of National Revenue, of his authority to initiate anti-dumping investigations without formal complaint, where he is of the opinion there is evidence of dumping and material injury as a result of dumping. The evidence would be based on data accumulated by the task force. With regard to the dumping evidence, the United States "trigger prices" and the EEC "basic prices" appropriately adjusted will be taken into account in the decision whether or not to initiate an anti-dumping investigation.

- an accelerated investigation procedure.

CANADA (cont'd)

Lifting of import restrictions on textiles

Canada has lifted restrictions on imports of textiles from El Salvador, with effect from 31 January 1978.


Termination of unilateral restraint measures on bed sheets

The unilateral restraint action taken by Canada under Article 3:5 of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement for the twelve-month period beginning 11 March 1977 in respect of imports of bed sheets from Hong Kong has been terminated as of 11 March 1978.

Source: COM.TEX/GB/322.
See also Survey of Developments in Commercial Policy No. 1, page 24.
The Government of Chile decided in December 1977 to introduce a new programme to reduce tariffs (Decree No. 1192 of 3 December 1977). The duty levels which range from 10 per cent to 35 per cent with the exception of motor cars, will be reduced as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rates to be applied as of</th>
<th>35%</th>
<th>30%</th>
<th>27%</th>
<th>24%</th>
<th>20%</th>
<th>17%</th>
<th>13%</th>
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The tariff rates for capital goods, for which there is no local production, were reduced immediately to 10 per cent. These goods fall within the chapters 59, 82, 84, 85, 86, 87, 89 and 90 of the tariff. The rates on motor vehicles remain at 115 per cent.

CHILE (cont'd)

Increases of import duties

The import duties on a number of goods falling within chapters 84, 85, 86, 87, 89 and 90 were increased from 10 per cent to 19 per cent (Decree 1340).


Reductions of import duties

The import duties on certain items classified within 84.06, 84.57, 87.06, 87.07 and 87.14 were reduced (Decree 1340).


Reduction of VAT surcharge on alcoholic beverages

The Ministry of Finance reduced the VAT surcharge on import of alcoholic beverages, including whisky, gin, vodka and vermouth, as of 1 January 1978 (Decree Law 2057). The tax, which is calculated on the c.i.f. value plus ad valorem duty, has been reduced from 40 per cent to 30 per cent.


Tariff exemption for fishing equipment

Fishing equipment and accessories, when imported by or for small-scale fishermen, will not be subject to import duties and similar tax charges but only to VAT (Ministry of Finance Decree 1016).


COLOMBIA

Suspension of imports of certain cars

Colombia has extended the suspension of imports of cars with engines of more than six cylinders to include the import of jeeps. Furthermore, import licences will not be granted for the import of automobiles with equipment with a value of less than US$5,000 f.o.b. factory country of origin. Excepted from this measure are official entities, diplomatic services and similar agencies.

See also Survey of Developments in Commercial Policy No. 1, page 27.
CONGO

Provisions applicable to imports

Decree No. 8562 of the Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of the Congo stipulates that goods of all kinds and from all sources imported into the Congo must be insured by the Society "Assurances et Réassurances du Congo" (ARC). As of 1 January 1978, customs clearance of goods will only be authorized on presentation of an insurance certificate from the said Society to the customs authorities. Furthermore, Customs Order No. 1464 of 13 December 1977 has established a transition period of three months. The relevant documents established by the ARC will therefore only be required by Customs as from 1 April 1978.


EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Tariff quotas

Council Regulation (EEC) No. 592/78 opened duty free tariff quotas of 40,000 hl. (containers holding two litres or less) and 10,000 hl. (containers holding more than two litres) for certain wines from Morocco under CCT sub-heading ex 22.05, for the period 1 April 1978 to 31 March 1979.


Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2337/77 of 24 October 1977 opened a tariff quota for 1978 of 8,373 tonnes for imported dried grapes in immediate containers of a net capacity of 15 kgs. or less, under CCT sub-heading 08.04 BI, at a duty of 1.2 per cent.


Initiation of anti-dumping/anti-subsidy investigations

The Commission of the European Communities has decided to initiate an anti-dumping/anti-subsidy investigation on imports of the following products:

1. certain galvanized steel sheets and plates, from Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Japan, Poland and Spain, on 24 January 1978;

2. certain sheets and plates of iron or steel, from Australia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Japan, Poland, Romania and Spain, on 24 January 1978;
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (cont'd)

3. certain haematite pig iron, from Canada, on 24 January 1978;

4. certain sheets and plates, of iron or steel, from Czechoslovakia, Japan, South Korea and Spain, on 24 January 1978;

5. iron or steel coils for re-rolling, from Australia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Japan, Poland, South Korea, Spain and the USSR, on 24 January 1978;

6. wire rod, from Australia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Japan, Poland and Spain, on 24 January 1978;

7. certain galvanized steel sheets and plates, from Finland, on 2 February 1978;

8. U, I or H angles, shapes and sections, of iron or steel, not further worked than hot-rolled or extruded, from Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Japan, South Africa and Spain, on 9 February 1978;

9. certain galvanized, other than electrolytically galvanized, steel sheets and plates, from Austria, on 18 February 1978;

10. kraft liner from Sweden, Finland, Canada, Portugal and Austria, on 3 March 1978;

11. bars and rods of alloy steel, not further worked than hot-rolled or extruded, from Japan and Spain, on 8 March 1978;

12. certain rosin, from Sweden, on 11 March 1978;

13. certain chemical wood pulp, from Canada, Finland, Sweden and the United States, on 12 April 1978;

14. ferrochromium, from South Africa and Sweden, on 13 April 1978;

15. winding wire from Spain, on 25 April 1978.

       No. C 27, 2 February 1978
       No. C 33, 9 February 1978
       No. C 41, 18 February 1978
       No. C 54, 3 March 1978
       No. C 58, 8 March 1978
       No. C 62, 11 March 1978
       No. C 89, 12 April 1978
       No. C 90, 13 April 1978
       No. C 100, 25 April 1978
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (cont'd)

Imposition of a provisional anti-dumping duty

The Commission of the European Communities recommended that a provisional anti-dumping duty be imposed on the following products:

1. iron or steel coils for re-rolling, from Czechoslovakia and South Korea, on 18 January 1978;
2. certain types of haematite pig iron, from Canada, on 18 January 1978;
3. certain galvanized steel sheets and plates, from Poland and Spain, on 18 January 1978;
4. wire rod, from Czechoslovakia, on 18 January 1978;
5. certain sheets and plates, of iron or steel, from Czechoslovakia, on 18 January 1978;
6. certain sheets and plates, of iron or steel, from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, and Japan, on 18 January 1978;
7. certain angles, shapes and sections, of iron and steel, not further worked than hot-rolled or extruded, from Spain, on 27 January 1978;
8. certain sheets and plates, of iron or steel, from the German Democratic Republic, Romania and Spain, on 27 January 1978;
9. certain sheets and plates, of iron and steel, from Japan, on 27 January 1978;
10. iron or steel coils for re-rolling, from Japan and Bulgaria, on 2 February 1978;
11. certain sheets and plates, of iron or steel, from Poland, on 7 February 1978;
12. certain angles, shapes and sections, of iron or steel, not further worked than hot-rolled or extruded, from Japan, on 7 February 1978;
13. iron or steel coils for re-rolling from Australia, on 14 February 1978;
14. certain galvanized sheets and plates from the German Democratic Republic and Japan, on 20 February 1978;
15. kraft liner paper and board from the United States, on 11 March 1978.

The amount of the duty is equal to the amount by which the effective price (basic price plus extras) established by contract, free frontier duty-paid, is lower than the effective price (basic price plus extras) published by the Commission for these products. The entry of the products described above is conditional upon the deposit of a security for the amount of the provisional duty.

No. L 19, 24 January 1978
No. L 23, 28 January 1978
No. L 37, 7 February 1978
No. L 39, 9 February 1978
No. L 45, 16 February 1978
No. L 50, 22 February 1978
No. L 69, 11 March 1978
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (cont'd)

Imposition of a definitive anti-dumping duty

The Commission of the European Communities imposed a definitive anti-dumping duty on the following products:

1. iron or steel coils for re-rolling, from the Republic of Korea on 20 April 1978;
2. certain sheets and plates of iron or steel, from Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic and Romania, on 21 April 1978.


Extension of provisional anti-dumping measures

The Commission of the European Communities has recommended that provisional anti-dumping measures with respect to the following products should be extended for a further three months:

1. steel products from Japan, on 20 April 1978;
2. steel products from Poland and Spain, on 22 April 1978.


Suspension of provisional anti-dumping measures

The Commission of the European Communities has recommended that provisional anti-dumping duties on steel products from Czechoslovakia should be suspended as from 28 April 1978.


Termination of anti-dumping/anti-subsidies procedure

On 12 November 1977 the Commission gave notice in Official Journal of the European Communities No. C 273 of the initiation, in accordance with Council Regulation (EEC) 459/68, of investigations concerning imports of quartz crystal units from Japan. In the course of these investigations the Japanese exporters gave undertakings that have satisfied the Commission that the introduction of protective measures is unnecessary at present. The procedure is accordingly terminated.

On 3 March 1978, the Commission gave notice in Official Journal of the European Communities No. C 54 of the initiation, in accordance with Council Regulation (EEC) No. 459/68, of investigations concerning imports of kraft liner from Finland, Portugal, Sweden and Austria. In the course of these investigations the exporters concerned gave undertakings that have satisfied the Commission that the introduction of protective measures is unnecessary at present. The procedure is accordingly terminated.


On 3 March 1978, the Commission gave notice in Official Journal of the European Communities No. C 54 of the initiation, in accordance with Council Regulation (EEC) No. 459/68, of investigations concerning imports of kraft liner from Canada. In the course of these investigations the exporters concerned gave undertakings that have satisfied the Commission that the introduction of protective measures is unnecessary at present. The procedure is accordingly terminated.


On 24 January 1978, the Commission gave notice in Official Journal of the European Communities No. C 19, of the initiation, in accordance with recommendation 77/329/ECSC, of investigations concerning imports of wire rod from Japan. In the course of these investigations certain arrangements have been made between the Community and the Japanese Government that have satisfied the Commission that the introduction of protective measures is unnecessary at present. The procedure is accordingly terminated.


On 9 February 1978, the Commission gave notice in Official Journal of the European Communities No. C 33, of the initiation, in accordance with recommendation 77/329/ECSC, of investigations concerning imports of U, I or H angles, shapes and sections, of iron or steel, not further worked than hot-rolled or extruded, originating in the Republic of South Africa. In the course of these investigations certain arrangements have been made between the Community and the South African Government that have satisfied the Commission that the introduction of protective measures is unnecessary at present. The procedure is accordingly terminated.


On 8 March 1978, the Commission gave notice in Official Journal of the European Communities No. C 58, of the initiation, in accordance with the recommendation 77/329/ECSC, of investigations concerning imports of bars and rods, of alloy steel, not further worked than hot-rolled or extruded, originating in Japan. In the course of these investigations certain arrangements have been made between the Community and the Japanese Government that have satisfied the Commission that the introduction of protective measures is unnecessary at present. The procedure is accordingly terminated.

On 2 February and on 18 February 1978, the Commission gave notice in Official Journals of the European Communities No. C 27 and No. C 41, of the initiation in accordance with recommendation 77/329/ECSC, of investigations concerning imports of certain galvanized steel sheets plates, originating in Finland and in Austria. In the course of these investigations certain arrangements have been made between the Community and the Finnish and Austrian Governments that have satisfied the Commission that the introduction of protective measures is unnecessary at present. The procedure is accordingly terminated.


On 24 January 1978, the Commission gave notice in Official Journal of the European Communities No. C 19 of the initiation in accordance with Commission recommendation 77/329/ECSC of an investigation concerning imports of certain haematite pig iron originating in Canada. In the course of this investigation the exporters concerned gave undertakings that have satisfied the Commission that the introduction of protective measures is unnecessary at present. The procedure is accordingly terminated.


Agreement on limiting steel imports from six EFTA countries

Six EFTA countries (Austria, Finland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland) have agreed not to increase the volume of their steel exports to the Community during 1978. In return, the EFTA steel exporters are permitted to sell into the Community at 3 per cent below Community steel producers' list prices.

The agreement with the EFTA countries, initialled on 28 February 1978 in Brussels, was the first of this kind negotiated by the Community. It replaced the minimum steel import price scheme which the Community imposed on 1 January 1978.

Under the agreement, the EFTA steel exporters are required not to disrupt "the normal pattern of trade" with the Community. In the first nine months of 1977, their combined exports to the Community amounted to 2 million tonnes, and in 1976 to 2.56 million tonnes.

Source: Financial Times, 2 March 1978
Tariffs and Trade, 6 March 1978.
Agreement on limiting steel imports from Czechoslovakia

Czechoslovakia has agreed to limit its steel exports to the Community to 667,000 tonnes for 1978, compared to 576,000 tonnes for the first nine months of 1977, and 731,000 tonnes for the whole of 1976.

The agreement was embodied in an exchange of letters between Community and Czechoslovak representatives in Geneva on 12 April 1977.

Czechoslovakia was the first East European country to conclude an agreement of this kind with the Community. Czechoslovak exporters will benefit from a competitive edge over Community steelmakers of 6 per cent on ordinary steels and 4 per cent on special steels.

Source: European Report, 15 April 1978
Financial Times, 14 April 1978.

Agreement on limiting steel imports from Japan

Japan has agreed to limit its steel shipments to the Community to 1.2 million tonnes for 1978, compared with 1.3 million tonnes in 1977, and 1.6 million tonnes in 1976.

The agreement between the Community and Japan, signed in Brussels on 10 April 1978, allows Japanese exporters a competitive margin over Community steelmakers of 6 per cent on ordinary steels and 4 per cent on special steels.

Source: Financial Times, 12 April 1978

Agreement on limiting steel imports from South Africa

South Africa has agreed to limit its steel shipments to the Community to 332,000 tonnes in 1978.

The agreement between the Community and South Africa, signed in Brussels on 7 April 1978, allows South African exporters a competitive margin over Community steelmakers of 6 per cent on ordinary steels and 4 per cent on special steels.

Source: Financial Times, 12 April 1978
Minimum prices for imports of tomato concentrates from Greece

Commission Regulation (EEC) No. 436/78 of 1 March 1978 established a system of minimum prices for imports of tomato concentrates from Greece under CCT sub-heading ex 20.02 C, effective as from 2 March 1978.


Termination of protective measures against imports into Ireland of Polish onions

By Commission Regulation No. 765/78, effective as from 15 April 1978, the EEC discontinued the protective measures introduced on 22 December 1977 against imports into Ireland of onions from Poland.


Surveillance of footwear imports

Commission Regulation (EEC) No. 716/78 introduced Community Surveillance from 1 May 1978 to 31 October 1978 of footwear imports under CCT headings 64.01/2/3/4 from the following countries: Brazil, China, Czechoslovakia, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, South Korea and Spain.

The Regulation stipulates that the above items may be put into free circulation in the Community only on production of import documents issued by member States in accordance with Article 8 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No. 1439/74 and Article 6 of Regulation (EEC) No. 109/70, valid for three months.


Textile agreements

Bilateral agreements with respect to imports of textiles and textile products have been concluded by the European Commission with some of the Community's trading partners under the Multi-Fibre Arrangement.

Countries with which agreements have been initialled are Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Korea, Hong Kong, India, Macao, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Romania, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Yugoslavia.

These agreements became effective de facto from 1 January 1978.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (cont’d)

Import quotas on textiles originating in Hungary and Poland

Imports of textile products from Poland and Hungary will be subject to quotas under the rules for State-trading countries as applied in 1977. These rules will apply until bilateral agreements are concluded by the Community with these countries.


Proof of origin for certain textile products

By a Council regulation of 20 March 1978, the Community has set out rules on proof of origin for certain textile products falling within chapter 51 or chapters 53 to 62 of the Common Customs Tariff. The conditions for the acceptance of such proof is detailed in the regulation which shall enter into force on 1 May 1978.


FRANCE

Application of "visa technique" on all imports of paper and board products

Following a complaint from the Groupement Européen de la Cellulose, the French Government has applied the procedure of "visa technique" on all imports of paper and board products. This procedure involves the recording of details on all imports at the frontier to show whether certain supplier countries are "dumping" on the French market.


UNITED KINGDOM

Licensing for imports of iron and steel from Romania

As from 1 February 1978, iron and steel products from Romania may be imported into the United Kingdom only under individual licences issued by the Department of Trade. Applications for individual import licences are considered on a case-by-case basis for goods in transit on or before 31 January 1978 and for goods shipped on or after 1 February 1978 and due to arrive in the United Kingdom on or before 31 March 1978, in respect of imports at a rate approximating to 25 per cent of total deliveries of iron and steel from Romania in 1976.


Agreement by Japan to limit exports of cars and light commercial vehicles to the United Kingdom

Japan has agreed to restrict shipments of cars to the United Kingdom in 1978 to the same level as last year. The agreement is for a year initially but is expected to be renegotiated for 1979 by representatives of the two countries' motor industries. The number of cars sent to the United Kingdom this year will be no greater than last year and a similar arrangement has been made for light commercial vehicles. No heavy lorries will be shipped direct to the United Kingdom.
UNITED KINGDOM (cont'd)

Mr. Edmund Dell, Trade Secretary, told the House of Commons on 7 March 1978 that the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry was to give "strong administrative guidance" to the Japanese vehicle industry.

A letter delivered by the Japanese Ministry to the British Embassy in Tokyo said this should lead to a natural decline in the Japanese share of the United Kingdom car market "assuming the market grows in accordance with the forecast given by the United Kingdom Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders to the Japanese Automobile Motor Association".

In 1977, a total of 140,410 Japanese cars were registered in the United Kingdom accounting for a 10.61 per cent share of the market. The Government would like to see that share drop below 10 per cent.


Surveillance licensing of cutlery imports

As from 10 April 1978, the United Kingdom introduced national prior surveillance for cutlery imports. Goods falling under CCT headings 82.09, 82.12, 82.14, 82.15 may only be imported from non-EEC countries under individual import licences valid for three months.


Import quotas: Bananas from the "dollar area"

To offset expected shortfalls in supplies of fresh bananas to the United Kingdom from other sources, a further supplementary quota of 10,000 tonnes was established for imports from countries designated as falling in the "dollar area".


Import quotas for textiles for non-signatories to the Multi-Fibre Arrangement

The United Kingdom authorities have established country quotas for imports of woven cotton textiles for the year 1978, from the non-signatories of the MFA. These do not include imports from certain Mediterranean countries and State-trading countries.


ETHIOPIA

Exchange control

On 10 January 1978 the National Bank of Ethiopia issued a notice to importers covering agricultural and a number of industrial products for which foreign exchange will not be available.

FIJI

Import duty increases

In the Fiji budget, increases in import duties, effective 1 December 1977, on a wide range of products were announced.

Source: Trade and Industry, 13 January 1978

Import licensing: motor vehicles and rice

With effect from 15 December 1977, an import licence has been required for the import into Fiji of passenger motor cars and vehicles (tariff items 87.02.00.03-04), goods vehicles (87.02.00.05) and earth-moving equipment and tractors (84.23.00.00 and 87.01.00.09).

With effect from 9 March 1978, the import of rice classified under tariff items 10.06.00.01 and 10.06.00.09 was prohibited except in accordance with the terms of a licence issued by the Permanent Secretary for Agriculture and Fisheries.


FINLAND

Tariff suspension: coffee

Imports of unroasted coffee (CCCN 09.01A) are exempted temporarily from duty until 31 August 1978.

Source: Trade and Industry, 28 April 1978

Minimum import prices: ladies' knee-length stocking and semi-manufactured tights

A minimum import price of Fmk 1.05 per pair on ladies' knee-length stockings had been introduced but not enforced by the Finnish authorities as from 27 June 1977. The authorities decided to enforce the minimum import price with effect from 19 January 1978.

The Finnish authorities also decided to impose a minimum import price of Fmk 1.20 per pair on ladies' semi-manufactured tights. The measure took effect on 1 April 1978.

A levy amounting to the difference between the actual import prices and the minimum import prices is charged on imports at below the declared minimum import prices.


Minimum import prices: rubber boots

The minimum import prices applied on rubber boots have been increased as of 9 February 1978: men's from Fmk 30 to Fmk 37, ladies' from Fmk 20 to Fmk 27, and children's from Fmk 16 to 18. This measure will remain in force until 9 February 1979 unless otherwise amended or extended.

FINLAND (cont'd)

Minimum import prices: gloves

On 13 January 1978, the minimum prices on gloves (CCCN 42.03) were extended until 18 January 1979. The minimum prices are: Fmk 30 per pair on pigskin gloves with or without lining and on nappa gloves with lining, and Fmk 25 per pair on nappa gloves without lining.


Import equalization tax amendments

The Finnish authorities have published changes to the rates of import equalization taxes levied on many goods in CCCN chapters 11 to 98.


Licensing: iron and steel

On 28 February 1978, thirty-nine iron and steel products (CCCN 73.01, 73.08, 73.10, 73.11, 73.12, 73.13 and 73.15) became subject to surveillance licensing. According to Finnish authorities, the purpose of the licensing is to monitor the growth of imports in certain product areas.


GREECE

Tariff exemption for hot-houses

Greece has exempted from duty and all taxes normally applicable to importation imports of metal constructions, equipment and components, instruments and non-perishable goods used in the construction of or contained in hot-houses.


Abolishment of consumption tax for certain luxury products

The Greek Government abolished the consumption tax of 25 per cent on the retail price of certain luxury goods in a decree which became effective on 24 December 1977.

GRENADA

New customs tariff

Grenada introduced a new single-tier customs tariff in which the Commonwealth preferential duty has been abolished.


GUATEMALA

Import duty exemptions

The Ministry of Economy has exempted the following products from import duties: edible and non-edible maize, starches, polyester yarn and thread, synthetic textiles, oilcloth, various types of electric cable, telephone cables, certain bicycle parts, and various other products.

Source: Bank of London and South America Review, Vol. 12, April 1978

HUNGARY

Changes in the organization of foreign trade

By a decree of the Foreign Trade Ministry of 14 January 1978 Hungarian end-users may now choose, under certain conditions, among the foreign trade organizations to look after their export or import interests. Up to now these organizations were specialized in certain lines of commodities and imports or exports were made according to this specialization.


Generalized system of preferences: improvement in preferential tariff rates

Under a Decree No.-46/1977/XII.8/MT the Hungarian Government further reduced in an autonomous way the preferential tariff rates for sixty-four products, the imports of which had been increased from beneficiary countries since the implementation of the preferential systems. The product coverage of the system has also been broadened to include 705 new products. Consequently, 769 new preferential tariff rates have been set; for 369 products the preferential tariff rate is 0.

As a result of these improvements the Hungarian preferential tariff system now includes 1,457 preferential tariff items. All products originating in and imported directly from the twenty-six least-developed countries are exempted from duties.

Source: L/4106/Add.1.
ICELAND

Import licence liberalization: rye flour, sugar

By a decree of 5 January 1978, rye flour (CCCN 11.01) and cube and granulated sugar (CCCN 17.01) are no longer subject to import licensing.


Import licence: motor vehicles

Used motor vehicles for transporting passengers (CCCN 87.02) require an import licence.


INDIA

Import duties: reductions

As a consequence of the Indian budget for 1978/79, announced on 28 February 1978, import duties on some capital goods have been reduced from 40 per cent to 25 per cent. The reduced rates apply to certain garment and textile industry machinery, leather processing and finishing machinery, some miscellaneous machine tools and some types of equipment used in oil exploration. However, duty on imported polyester yarn was to be increased from 120 per cent to 200 per cent.

Earlier, the Indian Government had announced that all life-saving drugs, medicines and equipment would be exempted from customs duty and that medical, surgical and diagnostic equipment, apparatus and appliances falling under tariff headings 90.17 to 90.20, when of a type not manufactured in India, would also be exempted from customs duty provided they were imported by Government hospitals or hospitals run by charitable trusts or societies which provided free service or service at concessional rates.


Auxiliary duty of customs

The Parliament approved for a further period of one year from 1 April 1978 the levy of auxiliary duty of customs. There is no change in the rates of the auxiliary duty.

Source: L/4655.
Import-export policy for 1978-79: Liberalization

The Indian import-export policy for fiscal year 1978 (beginning 1 April 1978) substantially liberalizes import policies and procedures. Major changes introduced include the following.

Capital goods. The list of capital goods allowed to be imported without any usual clearance under what is known as "Open General Licence" has been expanded to cover 253 items. Fourteen core industries have been allowed to import all the machinery needed by them on the basis of global tenders which would be scrutinized by a high-level committee.

Decanalization. In order to assist small scale industries particularly, certain items have been decanalized while a new list of canalized items to be imported through public sector agencies has been drawn up. These agencies could be given annual allocation of foreign exchange for import of canalized items during the year without further reference for import licence on each occasion. The Government has also further announced that future canalization of items would be judged only by demonstrable advantage. Import of liquors, arms and ammunition and industrial explosives have been added for canalization. Canalized liquors would be supplied to hotels and bars catering for foreign tourists.

Actual users of licences. Actual users would get their annual requirements without special clearance under the automatic licence scheme under which a 10 per cent growth factor would be built in to take care of normal increase in their needs. All actual users and REP licences would be issued under free foreign exchange and emergency spares could be imported without any limit of value of licence while goods damaged or lost in transit could also be replaced without a new licence. Import of luxury goods has been banned while other consumer goods except those specifically listed are also not allowed to be imported. The period of validity of actual users and REP licences has been reduced to twelve months.

Small scale units. In order to protect the interests of small scale, tiny and cottage industries, the imports of items currently reserved for these sectors have been banned in general. For new small scale units, the value of a first licence in relation to machinery up to Rs 300,000 would be issued on the recommendation of a sponsoring authority. For such industries, to encourage their setting up in backward areas, etc., the limit for first licence would be up to Rs 500,000. In addition, they would be allowed a larger proportion of canalized imports and their inventory and transport requirements.

Assistance for exports. The whole system of cash assistance would be reviewed and a stable policy would be evolved in this regard. Wherever necessary cash assistance for exports could be reduced.
INDIA (cont'd)

Export policy. India's control of exports would be confined to a few limited commodities while items essential for domestic economy would either be restricted or banned for export. In respect of most items of export, no export licences would be required and customs authorities would allow their exports subject to the prescribed procedures and conditions. Exports of kuth, goat hair patties, knitwear (woollen and mixed), barytes, footwear and ERW pipes have been decanalized. In the case of footwear particularly, future exports would be subject to a minimum export price obligation fixed for each variety.

Decentralization and procedural simplification. The issue of licences is to be decentralized, except in respect of capital goods of a value greater than Rs 10 lakhs and a few other cases. The new import policy is expected to reduce considerably the need for seeking import licences. In addition, a number of simplified procedures have been introduced with a view to speeding up the processing of remaining licence applications.


INDONESIA

Import duty reductions: crepe tape paper and electric light bulbs

With effect from 16 December 1977, imports of crepe tape paper (CCCN 48.15.95) used in packing fertilizer were exempted from import duty and sales tax.

The import of electric light bulbs (CCCN 85.20.10) has been partially exempted from import duty and sales tax with retroactive effect from 1 April 1977. The import duty is now 20 per cent and the sales tax 5 per cent.

Exchange regulations: goods used in local industry

The Bank of Indonesia announced provisions, with effect from 1 January 1978, to make the import of goods needed for local industry easier by utilizing foreign financial sources. The Foreign Exchange Bank would open a letter of credit with time-payment conditions when the importer has either obtained a producer/importer recognition identification code to import goods limited to the production needs of the company or made a request to import specific goods already approved by the Minister of Trade. The Foreign Exchange Bank would accept a draft drawn up by the seller abroad and fix the amount of the import financial guarantee. The time period of payment must not exceed 180 days after the date of shipment.

Subsequently, a list of goods that could be imported on these conditions was issued.

Source: Trade and Industry, 10 March and 14 April 1978.

Import prohibition: finished medicines

The Indonesian authorities have announced that with effect from 1 January 1978 only finished medicines of the following types would be allowed to enter Indonesia: anti-cancer drugs, insulin, diagnostic drugs, infusion liquids, and some antibiotics in ampoule form. Import of these drugs requires a special permit from the Minister of Health.


Textile import regulations: exemptions

The following goods have been added to the list of items exempted from the textile import regulations (see Survey of Developments in Commercial Policy, No. 1, page 46): bed ticking of rayon fibres over 160 cm. width (tariff item 51.04.52), polyester fibres of irregular type (56.01.20), velvet of cotton pile fabrics (58.04.10), velvet of silk (58.04.12), and cuts of cloth (63.02.00).

IRAN

Introduction of new tariffs on steel, textiles and petrochemicals

On 21 March, to protect its investments, Iran introduced protective tariffs on imports of petrochemicals, iron and steel and indicated that new measures would be taken to protect its textile industry. These new tariffs, which entered into effect immediately, will remain in force for at least a year.


Import restriction on cloth

In order to put a break on the massive imports of cloth which have taken place over the past months, the Iranian Ministry of Commerce has suspended authorizations for the opening of credits for goods falling under tariff headings 51.04, 55.07, 55.08, 55.09, 56.07 and 58.04 until 20 March 1978.


ISRAEL

Removal and reduction of surcharge

Israel removed the surcharge on items falling under CCCN 69.07 and 69.08 which have been deleted from the Emergency (Rate of Compulsory Payment) Order, 1977.

The surcharge on certain goods falling under CCCN 84.06 and 84.08 (motors of a nominal power exceeding 500 hp but not exceeding 3,000 hp) has been reduced from 20 per cent to 12 per cent.


IVORY COAST

Fiscal duties

As from 1 January 1978, the fiscal duties applicable on imports have been increased. The normal rate of 22 per cent has been increased to 23.50 per cent; the reduced rate of 10 per cent to 10.50 per cent. The higher rate of 33.50 per cent remains unchanged.

JAPAN

Trade liberalization measures

In a joint statement issued on 13 January 1978 by Japan's Minister of State for External Economic Affairs, Nobuhiko Ushiba, and the United States Special Representative for Trade Negotiations, Ambassador Robert S. Strauss, the Japanese Minister stated that Japan was taking the following significant actions to increase imports:

- advance tariff reductions on $US2,000 million of imports, effective 1 April 1978;
- removal of quota controls on twelve products;
- as regards high-quality beef, the United States and Japan would make constant efforts to exploit demand so that within the hotel and general quotas there would be an increase in importation by 10,000 tons on a global basis beginning in the Japanese fiscal year 1978;
- a three-fold increase to 45,000 tons in the global quota for oranges;
- a four-fold increase to 4,000 tons in the global quota for citrus juice;
- conducting a sweeping review of its foreign exchange control system and planning a new system based on the principle that all transactions should be free unless specifically prohibited. As a forerunner of the new system, certain immediate measures of liberalization were to be announced soon;
- formation of an inter-industry citrus group to study the present state and future developments in the citrus situation including juice blending and seasonal quota, to report to their governments by 1 November 1978;
- dispatch of a forest products study group to the U.S. Northwest with the objective of expanding and upgrading this trade;
- dispatch to the United States of a mission to explore the possibility of purchasing electric power plant machinery and equipment including nuclear plant components and equipment;
- dispatch to the United States of a government industry buying mission sponsored by the Joint Trade Facilitation Committee;
- a Japanese cabinet decision to secure for foreign suppliers substantially increased opportunities under government procurement systems;
- simplification of inspection requirements on imports;
- expansion of credit for imports into Japan;
- relaxation of rules for the standard method of settlement;
- co-operation in international efforts to curb excessive competition in export credits.

JAPAN (cont'd)

Tariff reductions: 124 items

Import tariffs on 124 items of the Japanese tariff were reduced, by an average of 23 per cent, with effect from 4 March 1978 (earlier it had been planned to apply these reductions from 1 April 1978). The items concerned were a wide range of products including: roasted and instant coffee; black tea; shrimps, prawns and lobsters; certain fruit and vegetable juices; certain other processed foodstuffs; certain wines and spirits; certain toiletries; photographic and X-ray plates and film; tyres; paper and paperboard; certain iron and steel products; certain aircraft and aircraft engines; machine tools; computers; certain other electrical machinery; wires and cables; and motor vehicles.


Import financing and other measures to increase imports

The Bank of Japan has announced the introduction on 22 May 1978 of a new yen-based import financing system which should enable importers to take advantage of the lower interest rates on yen than dollar denominated loans. The system would provide for foreign exchange banks to borrow from the central bank at the official discount rate, using yen-import bills as collateral.

Other measures aimed at increasing imports, announced on 21 April 1978, included:

- extension of the present foreign currency import financing system until 31 March 1979 and lowering the floating interest rate on these loans of up to three years to 3.75 per cent a year from 4 per cent;

- increasing the funds available through the Export-Import Bank;

- creation of a new import finance system supplying loans of up to ten years with an annual interest of 6 per cent to facilitate the importation for stockpiling of crude oil, iron pellets, nickel, chrome, uranium, other non-ferrous metals, aircraft and ships;

- lowering prices of imported tobacco.

JAPAN (cont'd)

Lifting of import restrictions: twelve products

The Japanese Government lifted the quantitative restrictions on imports of the following items, as of 1 April 1978:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>CCCN No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Smoked nishin (part of genus Clupea)</td>
<td>0302-2(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Mongo Ika cuttle fish</td>
<td>ex 0303-2(1) and (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Ham and bacon, packed and sterilized in airtight containers</td>
<td>ex 1602-2-(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Malt sugar, not containing added sugar, not containing added flavouring or colouring matter</td>
<td>1702-2-(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Rock candy, cube sugar, loaf sugar and similar sugar, not containing added flavouring or colouring matter</td>
<td>1702-4(1)-B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Maple syrup</td>
<td>ex 1702-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Sorbose</td>
<td>ex 1702-8-(2)-B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Nuts: in pulp form</td>
<td>ex 2006-1-(2) and 2-(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Apricots: in pulp form</td>
<td>ex 2006-1-(2) and 2-(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Lime juice, not containing added sugar</td>
<td>ex 2007-1-(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Mixed seasonings, chiefly consisting of sodium glutamate</td>
<td>ex 2104-2-(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Anthracite coal</td>
<td>ex 2701-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: L/4667/Rev.1.

Export restraint measures

The Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) announced in mid-April 1978 a series of guidelines restricting overseas shipments of certain major exports including motor vehicles, steel, colour television receivers, and ships to the same levels as, or below, the volume achieved in the fiscal year 1977 (ending 31 March 1978).

In addition, the motor-cycle and copying-machine industries were asked by MITI to impose voluntary export restraints.

KENYA

Textile imports banned

On 23 February 1978 the Minister for Commerce and Industry announced the ban on all imports of finished and semi-finished textiles similar to those produced in Kenya to protect the local textile industry. The ban covers second-hand clothing, hundreds of tons of which have been dumped in Kenya in the last two years. Moreover, the duty on imported yarn has been raised by 100 per cent. Transhipment of textile goods to neighbouring countries by road is also banned. In future all textiles transhipped through Kenya will be transported in sealed railway wagons and, if transported by air, will be monitored at Nairobi.


REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Temporary rates of import duty: reduction

The temporary rates of duty applied on fifty products were changed as of 1 January 1978. The majority of the changes entailed a reduction in duty.


Special excise tax: luxury goods

The Korean Government, in reforming its system of indirect taxation on goods, has created a value added tax and a special excise tax which is applicable to the importation of some thirty goods considered to be luxuries. The goods concerned include: petrol (rate of 160 per cent), furs (100 per cent), domestic electrical goods (30 to 40 per cent), carpets (30 per cent), furniture (20 per cent), cars and jeeps (15 to 40 per cent), wool yarn and other woollen articles (10 to 20 per cent).

Import deposit: liberalization

The Korean Government in a number of measures has progressively liberalized the system of deposits required on imports, both in respect of the amount of deposit required and the period during which the deposit is blocked. The actual rates of deposit vary according to the mode of payment used and the level of customs duty to which the goods are subject.


LEBANON

Reduction of import duty

The Lebanese Official Journal, 5, of 2 February 1978, published details of an amendment to the customs tariff which exempts from duty inks and paper used in the manufacture of carbon paper. Both products were hitherto subject to a duty of 18 per cent.


Import régime for eggs

By decree No. 3/1 of 10 January 1978, published in the Official Journal of 26 January 1978, the Lebanese Ministry for Agriculture has liberalized the import of eggs for consumption.


LIBERIA

Import prohibition

The importation of sugar into Liberia has been suspended. The Government considers that the sugar produced on Liberian plantations is now sufficient for local needs.

LIBYA

Import duty exemptions

Certain Libyan manufacturers importing machine tools and spares for use in their plant may claim exemption from duty. This applies also to certain primary materials. The industries concerned are:

- aluminium window and door production,
- dairy products processing,
- glass fibre prefabricated articles production,
- iron bed production,
- iron forging and working,
- marble cutting and polishing,
- plastic bottle and plastic bag production,
- sardine packing,
- steel pipe production,
- textile spinning, weaving and dyeing,
- tar production,
- wet battery production,
- wool washing and dyeing.


MADAGASCAR

Tariff changes

The provisions of Law No. 77.005 of 22 December 1977 (Finance Act 1978), published in the Official Journal of Madagascar dated 24 December 1977, modified the rate of the fiscal tax applicable to a certain number of products imported into Madagascar. These measures, which in general result in an increased rate, mostly affect the following categories of goods: food products, plastic materials, various products of the chemical industries, tyres, hand tools, motor vehicles.

MALTA

Additions to and deletions from list of items requiring import licences

Malta added the following items to its list of goods requiring import licences:

1. Fungicides and pesticides for agricultural use in wettable powder and dry powder form (Legal notice 155 of 1977);
2. Filigree works of any material (previously only filigree works of gold and silver) as of 13 January 1978 (Legal notice 5 of 1978);
3. Salt (sodium chloride) as of 10 February 1978 (Legal notice 19 of 1978);

The following items were deleted from the list of items requiring import licences as of 21 February 1978: certain types of buttons, electric wiring accessories, shoulder pads made of wadding (Legal notice 23 of 1978).


MAURITIUS

Import licensing

According to Government notice 177, published in Government Gazette 87, 4 October 1977, frozen mutton, beef and goat have been added to the list of goods requiring an import licence.


MEXICO

Changes in the import régime

1. Tariff increases

Tariff rates on more than 1,600 items and sub-items of the Mexican customs tariff were increased (Diario Oficial of 29 December 1977).


2. Import liberalization

Mexico liberalized, partially or totally, 1,920 tariff positions from the obligation of being subject to import licensing. The products concerned are contained in chapters 28 and 29 (chemical products), 30 (pharmaceutical products), 32 (tanning extracts), 73 (iron and steel), 84 (boilers, mechanical machines), 85 (electrical machines and apparatus), 90 (optical instruments and equipment). (Diario Oficial of 29 December 1977.)
MOROCCO

Changes in the customs tariff

The Ministry of Finance has announced changes in the customs tariff and increases in duties over a wide range of goods with effect from 18 November 1977. The products concerned, which were nearly all liberalized under Morocco's import programme for 1977, include certain meats, fish, foodstuffs, tableware, television sets, motor vehicles and luxury goods. For example the increase in the tariff rate for luxury spectacles is from 35 per cent to 100 per cent; for tableware from 30 per cent to 100 per cent; for motor cars from 85 to 90 per cent, from 75 to 100 per cent, and from 65 to 125 per cent, depending on their cubic capacity. For certain items the tariff rate is almost double.


Special tax on imports

In accordance with Finance Law 1978, the special tax on imports has been raised from 8 per cent to 12 per cent.


Import régime for 1978

The Moroccan authorities have published a notice No. 01.78 which establishes the import programme for 1978 for products from all sources. The new programme, like the previous ones, comprises three lists of products: (1) imports not subject to administrative authorization (list A); (2) imports subject to administrative authorization (list B); (3) prohibited imports (list C). In comparison with 1977, the 1978 import programme shows a marked decrease of liberalization.


NIGERIA

Import licensing

With effect from 18 January 1978, the Government of Nigeria has placed an embargo on the purchase and installation of computers, and all computer imports now require an import licence.

NIGERIA (cont'd)

Prohibited imports

In his speech of 1 April, the Nigerian Commissioner for Finance announced the following additions to the list of prohibited imports: fresh milk, flavoured or coloured beet sugar, macaroni and spaghetti, beer and stout, malt extract drinks, footwear, carpets, furniture, frozen meat including poultry, matches, household candles, eggs (including those imported solely for hatching), ready-made garments, and jewellery. These provisions will be in effect from 1 April 1978 to 31 March 1979.

Goods shipped before 1 April or covered by letters of credit opened before 16 March will be admitted providing the carrier vessel arrives in Nigerian territorial waters within three months.

The following items were added to the list of commodities to be imported under licence: corn flakes, structural (scaffolding) pipes, radios, record players, tape recorders, video tapes, tape decks and stereos, television sets, air conditioners and domestic refrigerators, built-up commercial vehicles (trucks and lorries), paints, cigars and cheroots, bare and insulated copper and aluminium electric wires, chilled meat.

The Commissioner for Finance also announced changes in the import duty payable on a number of commodities.


NORWAY

Import duty amendments: potato products

Effective 1 February 1978, the additional duty on semi-manufactures of mashed potato and/or potato starch used for producing snacks (ex. CCCN 19.02) has been increased to Kr. 3.50/kg. of the goods' net weight.

The additional duties applied to snacks manufactured from mashed potato and/or potato starch (ex. CCCN 19.08) are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By weight of mashed potato and/or potato starch</th>
<th>Additional duty (Kr./kg. net)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>less than 10 per cent</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-29.99 per cent</td>
<td>1.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-69.99 per cent</td>
<td>2.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 per cent or more</td>
<td>3.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NORWAY (cont'd)

Import duty reductions: cakes

Effective 1 February 1978, the additional duty applied to cakes containing eggs or egg products (ex. CCCN 19.08) has been reduced from Nkr 1.40/kg to Nkr 1.35/kg.

Source: UT Sidste Nyt, 8 March 1978.

Licensing: sugar

Imports of sugar falling under CCCN 17.01 are subject to licensing.


Import conditions: radio and television equipment

High frequency amplifiers (ex. CCCN 85.22) may not be imported without special authorization from the Directorate of Telecommunications. Imports of television cameras and monitors (ex. CCCN 85.15) no longer require import permits.


Import license restrictions on certain textile items

As from 1 January 1978 temporary import controls in the form of import licences were introduced on certain textile items from all countries other than the EEC and EFTA.

Source: C/M/125.

Bilateral textile agreements

The secretariat has been informed that Norway has concluded comprehensive agreements on imports of textiles from Japan and Korea. Agreements with India, Malaysia and the Philippines have been initialled. Negotiations with Sri Lanka, and Singapore are expected to open in the next few weeks.

PAKISTAN

Import duties: increases

The Pakistan Government has amended import duties as from 1 January 1978 on certain products falling within some 250 CCCN four-digit headings. In addition, import duties on components and materials imported by recognized assemblers or manufacturers of television receivers, bicycles or industrial machinery were changed.

Most of the duty changes were increases designed to raise additional budgetary finance.


Increased import duties: tea

Pakistan has announced increased import duties on tea in bulk (45 to 60 per cent) and on packeted tea (to 75 per cent).

Source: Financial Times, 4 April 1978.
PHILIPPINES

Reduced customs duties: medical equipment

Presidential decree 1258, effective 29 December 1977 until 31 December 1980, reduces under certain conditions customs duties to 10 per cent on the importation of certain hospital/medical equipment, machinery, implements and supplies.


Import régime: liberalization

The Philippine Central Bank has transferred to the category of semi-essential consumption goods certain products falling under CCCN 49.11, 59.09, 85.06, 85.12, 92.11 and 96.06. Previously these products were categorized as "not classified" or "non-essential".

In addition, prior approval from the Central Bank is no longer required for imports of aircraft, caustic soda, tyres, new and used trucks, used truck engines, and canned sardines.


PORTUGAL

Import ceilings: certain foodstuffs

Portuguese Diario da Republica 244 of 21 October 1977 revises the ceilings laid down for importing authorities in 1977 for certain foodstuffs essential for public consumption from a total 27,500,000 escudos to 29,240,000 escudos.

Diario da Republica 29 of 3 February 1978 states that the importing authorities can go ahead with orders for the first quarter of 1978 on the basis of a total 1978 importation of 60 per cent of the above escudo amounts.


Import quotas: completely knocked down motor vehicles

Government order No. 762/77 (Diario da Republica 290 of 17 December 1977) extends from 17 February 1978 until December 1978 the import quota system for completely knocked down (CKD) motor vehicles which was in force during 1977. Certain amendments have been introduced into the system so as to provide greater flexibility to the importer by allowing him to substitute his import allotment for completely built units with CKD units of equal value, and if he represents more than one specific make to transfer his quota amount from one specific make to another represented by him. An additional quota can be granted when new investments from foreign manufacturers are made in the Portuguese automotive industry. In order to promote exports, the last 20 per cent of an assembler's quota can be used only to the extent he exports automotive products manufactured in Portugal of equal value. Quotas for CKD motor vehicles can be increased by the amount of exports of motor products purchased by the overseas supplier of CKD kits to Portugal.

L/4568/Add.4.
PORTUGAL (cont'd)

Export finance

An aviso published on 19 January 1978 sets out conditions for official pre-financing of exports at preferential rates. Companies must add 30 per cent to the value of materials processed to qualify for credit lines of up to one third of export values of over 5 million escudos in 1977 or 1978.


SEYCHELLES

Import duties amended

The Customs Tariff Act is amended as follows by Decree 1 of 1978:

The import duty is amended to 50 per cent from any source on sausages; fish, fresh, salted or frozen and shellfish; eggs, fresh, dried or preserved; and ice cream.

The duty rate has been amended to 20 per cent from preference countries and to 25 per cent from other countries for meat, poultry and fish, preserved in airtight containers.

Rates of duty varying from 5 per cent to 30 per cent now apply to pork, pig meat, bacon, ham, fresh and frozen fruits, nuts, vegetables whether dehydrated, fresh, frozen or preserved in airtight containers and potato crisps.

To protect local industry, import duties have been raised to 100 per cent from any source on articles for domestic ornament, fancy goods and imitation jewellery.


SIERRA LEONE

Importation of vehicles

The Sierra Leone Gazette of 2 February 1978 published Government notice 76 which states that with immediate effect no new brands of vehicles should be imported into the country for commercial purposes without the prior written approval of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

SOUTH AFRICA

Modifications in import duties

Tariff increases for certain products were published in the South African Government Gazette of 13 January, 10 March and 17 March 1978. The products affected include inter alia certain wire of iron or steel, unwrought zinc, certain toilet brushes, certain water pumps for motor vehicles, etc.

Source: Trade and Industry, 10 February, 7 April and 14 April 1978.

Reduction of import surcharge

On 29 March, in presenting his budget for 1978-79, the Minister of Finance announced that the import surcharge would be reduced on 30 March 1978 from 15 per cent to 12.5 per cent with a possible further reduction later (Government Gazette of 30 March 1978).


1978 textile import policy

Under the South African policy in connexion with the import of textile piece goods in 1978, the objective will be to maintain permit issues at the same level as 1977 (approximately R 105 million). The first issue for 1978 will be 20 per cent of the 1977 permit issue.


Dumping

With effect from 1 January 1978 the South African Second Customs and Excise Amendment Act 1977 has amended the local definition of dumping. Imported goods are now deemed to have been dumped if "their export price to the republic is less than the price at which identical or comparable goods are being sold in the ordinary course of trade in any market in the territory of origin".


Import programme for 1978

As set out in Government Gazette 5836 of 30 December 1977, the new import programme differs little from the 1977 programme. As before, products have been separated into four categories: products free on importation; products for which licences are granted within "reasonable" limits; products subject to licensing and for which quotas are fixed periodically; products subject to specific licensing.
SOUTH AFRICA (cont’d)

The following goods have been removed from the restricted list (category 4): woven fabrics and worsted fabrics; milling cutters; air-conditioning machines; ice-cube making equipment; and television apparatus and equipment.


Import permits

An import permit allocation for 1978 equivalent to 40 per cent of the total permits issued in 1977 has been announced by the Minister of Economic Affairs in respect of consumer goods, clothing, confectionery and beverages (including whisky). In May, the Minister is expected to give consideration to a possible further permit allocation.


Drawbacks and refunds of customs duty

Provision is made for a refund of the full duty on printed books, journals and periodicals provided the prescribed conditions are complied with. (Amendment published in the Government Gazette of 6 January 1978.)


SPAIN

Tariff modifications

Royal decree 337/1977 (State Gazette of 10 January 1978) changes the duty rate applied to ferro molybdenum from 0 to 9 per cent.

Duty rates on waste paper under CCCN 47.02 are modified as follows by royal decree 3412/1977 (State Gazette of 14 January 1978). Previous rates are shown within parentheses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waste paper and paperboard</td>
<td>3 per cent with Pta 0.35/kg. min. (3 per cent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrap articles of paper or paperboard fit only for paper making</td>
<td>3 per cent with Pta 0.35/kg. min. (1 per cent)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Royal decree 64/1978 as published in the Spanish State Gazette of 18 January 1978 provides a separate tariff sub-category under CCCN 30.03 for growth hormone-based medicaments (somatotropina) with a duty of 1 per cent. Previous duty on this item was 19 per cent.
The Spanish State Gazette of 28 January published royal decrees 3507, 3508, 3514 and 3516/1977 which make the following tariff modifications as of that date. Tariff rates shown within parentheses are those previously in effect.

There is a new sub-heading for simulators under CCCN 90.21 subject to 1 per cent duty (17.5 per cent).

Duty rates on compound optical microscopes in CCCN 90.12 are 15 per cent with minimum of Ptas 12,000 and maximum of Ptas 15,000 (4.5 per cent minimum Ptas 450).

Under CCCN 37.01 there is a new sub-division for photographic plates of self-developing plastic duty-free (39.5 per cent, 48.5 per cent).

The duty rate on certain cyclic alcohols in CCCN 29.05 has been raised to 13 per cent (1 per cent).

State Gazette of 8 February 1978 includes royal decree 123/1978 which establishes separate sub-category under CCCN 29.44 for bleomcines with a duty of 1 per cent (previous applicable duty rate 10.5 per cent).

Also included is royal decree 122/1978 which increases the duty on feed preparations for pets (CCCN 23.07) from 17.5 per cent to 27 per cent.

As of 17 February 1978 a separate sub-heading has been established in CCCN 97.03 for inflatable rubber balloons by royal decree 172/1978 (State Gazette of 17 February). Import duty on this tariff sub-heading is 30 per cent with a compensation tax of 11 per cent and licensing. Previous duty rate applied was 47.5 per cent.


Tariff suspension: cocoa beans

The suspension of import duties levied on raw cocoa beans (CCCN 18.01 A) has been extended from 21 December 1977 to 20 March 1978 according to royal decree 3328/1977 (State Gazette of 30 December 1977).


Tariff suspension: hydrocarbons


Duty suspensions and tax reductions: wine

For three months beginning 6 March 1978, import duties are suspended and the home compensation tax is reduced for up to 1,500,000 hectolitres of bulk red wine (CCCN 22.05 D2b) according to royal decrees 298/1978 and 299/1978 (State Gazette of 6 March 1978).


Duty-free import quotas


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CCCN No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quota in m.t.</th>
<th>Validity period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27.01A</td>
<td>Coal for coking</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.01A</td>
<td>Coal for thermal power stations</td>
<td>555,000</td>
<td>1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ex. 73.13D and 73.15D</td>
<td>Hot rolled steel plates</td>
<td>23,000</td>
<td>1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73.13D2b</td>
<td>Cold rolled steel plates</td>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>1 January 1978 - 31 March 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ex. 73.15C,D, and G</td>
<td>Hot rolled strips</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55.01</td>
<td>Hard maize for grits</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ex. 47.01 A3</td>
<td>Cotton not carded or combed</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>10 October 1977 - 30 September 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48.01 A1, A2</td>
<td>Chemical wood pulp</td>
<td>30,100</td>
<td>1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.04A3</td>
<td>Newsprint</td>
<td>85,000</td>
<td>1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39.03C1b</td>
<td>Secondary butyl alcohol</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cellulose acetate flakes</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>1978</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spain (cont'd)

Luxury tax modifications: spirits, automobiles

In the context of fiscal reform measures, the Spanish Government increased in November 1977 luxury taxes applied on spirits, liqueurs, brandies and whiskies. New rates vary from 20-60 per cent as compared to previous rates of 18.1-48.4 per cent. Also introduced was a luxury tax of 35 per cent on automotive vehicles of 13 horsepower or more.


Import licence liberalization

According to State Gazette of 4 February 1978 imports of the following items are no longer subject to licensing in the context of global quotas: certain food preparations, certain chemical products, silk labels, certain felt and twine, certain machinery, certain vehicle parts, watchcases and certain sound recorders.


Marketing regulation: edible oil

Spain's edible oil marketing regulations for 1977/78 which was officially promulgated on 28 January 1978 aims at encouraging the consumption of olive oil by inter alia:
- reducing the soybean oil consumption level to 120,000 m.t. from last season's 170,000 m.t.
- establishing a fee to be levied on imported soybean oil
- eliminating the consumption subsidy on soybean oil
- making mandatory the bottling of all edible oil for the retail trade to prevent fraudulent blending of edible oils, particularly olive oil.


Surveillance: steel

A surveillance system has been established for imports of certain steel products included in CCCN Ch. 73 (State Gazette of 11 January 1978).

Surveillance: textiles

Applying a decree of 14 June 1977, the Spanish Ministry of Commerce has established a surveillance system of imports of certain textile products.

SRI LANKA

Increases in export duty

In accordance with an announcement made in the 1978 Sri Lanka budget of 15 November 1977, the following increases in export duty have been made.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>New rate of export duty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bulk tea</td>
<td>Rs 15.5 per kg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packeted tea</td>
<td>Rs 13.5 per kg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instant tea</td>
<td>Rs 40.0 per kg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubber</td>
<td>New sliding scale of duties on various grades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desiccated coconut</td>
<td>60 per cent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coconut fibre</td>
<td>30 per cent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


SWEDEN

Surveillance licensing: steel

A surveillance licensing system was introduced 15 February 1978 on steel imports. Importers are required to furnish information on country of origin and sale prices to permit Swedish authorities to ascertain whether the product is being sold at unfair prices.


Bilateral textile agreements

The secretariat has been informed that Sweden has concluded bilateral agreements with Hong Kong, India, Korea, Macao, Malaysia and Pakistan.
SWITZERLAND

Import levies

Survey of Developments in Commercial Policy No. 1, page 76 referred to additional levies to be imposed on imports of grains and other feeds. The secretariat has been informed that this entry is not correct.

Compensatory taxes: eggs

Effective 21 December 1977 the compensatory taxes applied to egg products have been modified as follows (Compilation of Federal Laws 27 December 1977):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CCCN 0405</th>
<th>Sw F/100 kgs. net</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 - eggs in shell</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 - dried eggs and yolks</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 - other</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CCCN 3502</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 - dried ovalblumen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 - other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


SYRIA

Import prohibition

Decree 690, issued on 6 November 1977 by the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade, prohibits the import of all types of porcelain tiles under tariff heading 69.08 and the import of certain sanitary ware under tariff No. 69.10.


THAILAND

Customs duties: increases

Under Decision No. 35 BE 2521, effective 9 March 1978, the Thai authorities increased customs duties applicable to 141 items falling under the following CCCN chapters: 02-04, 08, 15-20, 33, 34, 42, 43, 49-62, 64-66, 68-70, 73, 74, 76, 82, 84, 85, 87, 92-94 and 98.

THAILAND (cont'd)

Special import fees

Notice 1/2520 of the Thai Board of Investment maintains in force until 31 December 1978 the special fee of 20 per cent on the import of certain woven fabrics and yarns of cotton and man-made fibres.

Notice 37/2520 maintains in force until 31 December 1978 the special fee of 30 per cent on the import of discontinuous polyester fibre (CCCN 56.01), and continuous polyester filament yarn, continuous nylon filament yarn and nylon stretched yarn (CCCN 51.01, 51.03).

Notice 1/2521 places a special fee of 20 per cent on the import of mixed fertilizer and compound fertilizer falling under tariff heading CCCN 31.05.

Notice 2/2521 places a special fee of 20 per cent on imports of steel wire for prestressed concrete with high carbon, cold rolled, uncoated or unplated, having cross section in circular shape with diameter of 2 to 8 mm. The Notice came into effect on 1 February 1978 and remains in force until 31 January 1977.

Notice 3/2521 places a special fee of 30 per cent from 1 February 1978 to 31 January 1979 on the import of certain nylon fishing nets coming under tariff heading CCCN 59.05.

Notice 5/2521 places a special fee of 20 per cent on the import of certain chemical fertilizers coming under tariff heading CCCN 31.05, with effect from 10 February 1978 to 24 January 1979.

Source: Trade and Industry, 10 February, 24 February, 3 March and 7 April 1978.

Import prohibition

The Thai Government has banned with effect from 1 February 1978 the import of goods falling under the following CCCN headings: 08.04, 08.06, 08.12, 16.04, 17.04, 19.08, 20.07, 42.02, 48.21, 49.09, 49.10, 68.02, 69.07, 69.08, 69.10, 69.11, 87.02, 87.09.

THAILAND (cont'd)

Import regulations: nylon and polyester fibre yarn

Under regulations, effective 15 February 1978, of the Thai Foreign Trade Department, permission to import nylon yarn, nylon stretched yarn and polyester fibre yarn for use in the manufacture of goods for export will be granted only to manufacturers who use such materials as raw materials. Permission for import for other purposes will be granted only for the import of the types or sizes that cannot be manufactured locally in sufficient quantity to meet the market demand.


Import licensing: pig iron

With effect from 20 December 1977 imports of pig iron into Thailand required an import permit. Permits for the import of pig iron for use as raw materials in production of steel would only be granted to steel manufacturers with electric furnaces. Permits for the import of pig iron for use as raw materials in the production of cast iron would only be granted when local pig iron manufacturers were not able to meet demand or the requirements of particular cast iron manufacturers.


TUNISIA

Production tax

With effect from 1 January 1978, the Tunisian Official Journal of 31 December 1977 announced the reduction in the rate of production tax from 17 per cent to 11 per cent for importers/producers and from 21 per cent to 14 per cent for importers/non-producers on certain agricultural machinery.


Consumption tax on musical instruments

According to a decree of 23 December 1977, published in the Tunisian Official Journal of 13 January 1978, a number of musical instruments have been freed from paying consumption taxes. These goods will henceforth only be liable to a production tax of 17 per cent or 21 per cent (depending upon the importer).

TUNISIA (cont'd)

Import duties and production tax

The Tunisian Official Journal of 28 February has announced the suspension of duties and production tax from 1 January to 31 December 1978 on: live animals of the bovine species; live sheep and goats; meat of bovine animals; meat of sheep and goats.


Special compensatory tax on imports

Decree No. 78-315 of 23 March 1978, published in the Tunisian Official Journal No. 23 of 21-24 March 1978, instituted a special compensatory tax on imports of certain products for local consumption. The tax is paid into the "Caisse générale de compensation". The decree, which came into effect on 25 March 1978, introduces taxes ranging from 5 per cent to 300 per cent on a wide range of consumer goods, for example meat, fish, fruit, coffee, tea, luxury goods, motor cars, depending on their horse power, etc.

Middle East Economic Digest, 5 May 1978.

TURKEY

Postponement of tariff reduction

The Turkish Government obtained authorization to postpone, from 1 January 1978 to 1 January 1979, the third tariff reduction agreed on under the Agreement of Association between the EEC and Turkey.


Import deposit adjustment

Importers are required to make deposits with the Central Bank for the goods they want to import, while awaiting authorization for the obtaining of funds. In order to compensate for the devaluation of the lira the Government ordered importers to adjust their Central Bank deposits. This meant that the importers had to pay the difference between the old rate of LT 19.25 to the US dollar and the new rate of LT 25.00 to the US dollar in three instalments over three months from 1 March, or the import requests will be withdrawn.

Source: Middle East Economic Digest, 24 March 1978.
TURKEY (cont'd)

Stamp duty: extension of period of application

Under Law No. 2109, the Turkish Council of Ministers have been authorized to continue to levy until the end of 1982 a stamp duty not to exceed 25 per cent on all imports.

The Council of Ministers determined on 24 January 1978 that the following rates would apply:

A. (i) 22.5 per cent for the goods referred to in Article 10 of the Additional Protocol between Turkey and the EEC, when imported from the contracting parties;
(ii) 24 per cent for the goods referred to in Article 11 of the Additional Protocol between Turkey and the EEC, when imported from the contracting parties;
(iii) 25 per cent for the goods other than mentioned above, when imported from the contracting parties.

B. 25 per cent for all goods imported from non-contracting parties.

Source: BOP/179/Add.1.

UNITED STATES

Anti-Subsidy Proceedings

Initiation of investigation

The United States Treasury Department initiated an investigation to determine whether a bounty or grant was being paid with respect to the following products:

- optic liquid level sensing systems from Canada, in January 1978;
- textiles and men's and boys' apparel from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, India, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines and Uruguay in January 1978;
- bicycle tyres and tubes from the Republic of Korea in February 1978. An anti-dumping investigation was initiated at the same time. This action is the first simultaneous initiation of anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations;
- oleoresins, from Spain, on 24 March 1978;
- grain oriented silicon electrical steel, from Italy, on 25 April 1978;
- paper-making machines and parts from Finland, in April 1978;
- fish from Canada on 10 June 1977; a preliminary determination that certain Canadian fish was subsidized was issued simultaneously;
- certain electrical sound equipment and electronic musical instruments from Japan on 24 August 1977; a preliminary determination that the product does not benefit from bounties or grants was issued simultaneously.

Source: Tariffs and Trade, 6 January 1978.
    Commerce America, 27 February 1978.
Countervailing duty determinations

The United States Treasury Department determined that a bounty or grant was being paid with respect to the following products:

- chains and parts thereof, of iron or steel from Spain, on 24 January 1978;
- chains and parts thereof, of iron or steel from Japan, preliminary determination on 7 February 1978;
- leather handbags and non-rubber footwear from Uruguay on 30 January 1978. However, countervailing duties are being waived pending actions by the Government of Uruguay to phase out the effective export subsidy on these items. The waiver will expire on 4 January 1979, unless revoked earlier;
- leather wearing apparel from Uruguay on 30 January 1978. Since this product was duty free the case was referred to the International Trade Commission. In April 1978 the Commission determined that imports were injuring United States producers. The Treasury Department is considering whether it is appropriate to waive countervailing duties, based upon the criteria established by the Trade Act of 1974, including the actions taken and to be taken by the Government of Uruguay to reduce significantly the bounty or grant by January 1979.


Determination of a new amount of countervailing duty

On 12 January 1978, the Treasury Department determined that a countervailing duty of 1.98 per cent of the f.o.b. value of each tyre will be assessed on X-radial steel belted tyres imported from Michelin Tire Manufacturing Co. of Canada, Ltd. A deposit of estimated countervailing duties, in the amount of 2.513 per cent, had been required since 1 January 1976.

Source: Federal Register, 12 January 1978.

Waiver of countervailing duty

On 5 January 1978, the Treasury Department determined to waive the countervailing duties, that would otherwise be required by section 303 of the Tariff Act of 1930, on imports of butter cookies from Denmark. The waiver will expire on 4 January 1979, unless revoked earlier.

Source: Federal Register, 5 January 1978.
Proceedings Under Anti-Dumping or Escape Clause Regulations

Withholding of appraisement

The United States Treasury Department decided to withhold the appraisement of imports of the following products:

- welded stainless steel pipe and tubing from Japan, on 13 January 1978;
- viscose rayon staple fibre from Belgium, on 23 January 1978;
- sorbates from Japan, with the exception of that produced by one firm, on 2 March 1978;
- hydraulic cement from Canada, on 17 March 1978;
- motorcycles from Japan, in April 1978.

Sources: Federal Register, 13, 17, 23 January 1978, 2 March 1978

Determination of no market injury

On 15 March 1978, the United States International Trade Commission reported to the President that market disruption does not exist with respect to the import of certain cotton work gloves from China.


Determination of injury

The United States International Trade Commission made a determination of injury with respect to the following imported products:

- stainless steel flatware from Japan and the Republic of Korea, in April 1978. Between September 1971 and September 1976, the United States restricted these imports through a quota system that automatically increased duties each year when imports exceeded specified levels;
- carbon steel plates, from Japan, on 14 April 1978;

Financial Times, 15 April 1978
Tariffs and Trade, 17 April 1978.
Determination of likelihood of injury

On 4 April 1978, the United States' International Trade Commission determined that an industry in the United States is likely to be injured by reason of the importation of impression fabric of man-made fibre from Japan which the Department of the Treasury had determined was being, or was likely to be sold at less than fair value.

Source: Federal Register, 4 April 1978.

Determination of dumping

On 13 January 1978, the Treasury Department determined that imports of carbon steel plate from Japan had been sold at less than fair value. On 27 March 1978, the Treasury Department issued an amended determination of sales at less than fair value, based on new information with respect to purchase price, exporter's sales price and home market price.

Source: Federal Register, 13 January and 27 March 1978.

Determination of no dumping

On 5 January 1978, the Treasury Department determined that elemental sulphur from Mexico was not being, nor likely to be, sold at less than fair value. In addition, the Mexican firm has given assurances that future sales will not be at less than fair value. The shipments of this product from Mexico which were entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after 8 September 1977, will not be liable for special dumping duties.

Source: Federal Register, 5 January 1978.

Initiation of anti-dumping investigations

The Treasury Department decided to initiate an anti-dumping investigation with respect to the following products:

- certain structural carbon steel shapes from the United Kingdom, on 23 January 1978;
- carbon steel plates from the United Kingdom, on 23 January 1978;
- carbon steel strip from the United Kingdom, on 23 January 1978;
- carbon steel bars from the United Kingdom, on 23 January 1978;
- nylon yarn from France, on 25 January 1978;
- silicone metal from Canada, on 14 February 1978;
United States (cont'd)

- cumene from Italy and the Netherlands, on 23 February 1978;
- steel wire nails from Canada, in February 1978;
- bicycle tyres and tubes from the Republic of Korea, in February 1978;
- pneumatic marine fenders from Japan, in February 1978;
- nylon yarn from Japan, on 10 March 1978;
- photographic paper from Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany, on 12 April 1978.


Discontinuance and reopening of anti-dumping investigation

On 23 January 1978, the Treasury Department determined to discontinue the anti-dumping investigation of viscose rayon staple fibre from Austria. While prices to the United States during the period of investigation were below Austrian home market prices, the elimination of the price differential by the sole Austrian exporter and the provision of assurances of no future sales at less than fair value combined to warrant the discontinuance of the investigation.

On 7 March 1978, the United States Treasury Department decided that the discontinued anti-dumping proceedings concerning viscose rayon staple fibre from Austria should be reopened. Additional enquiry is necessary before any final conclusions can be reached with regard to the sale prices in the home market and the production costs of the exporter.

Source: Federal Register, 23 January and 7 March 1978.
UNITED STATES (cont'd)

Termination of anti-dumping investigation

The United States International Trade Commission notified the Secretary of the Treasury that the pending Treasury Department investigation can be terminated with respect to the following products, because there is no reasonable indication of injury or the likelihood of injury to an industry in the United States from such imports possibly sold at less than fair value:

- uncoated free sheet offset paper, from Canada, on 20 March 1978;
- ice hockey sticks, from Finland, end of March 1978.

On 28 February 1978, the United States Steel Corp. submitted a letter to the Treasury Department, indicating a willingness to withdraw its petition with respect to certain carbon steel sheets, plates, pipes and tubes, and structural products, from Japan, if the Treasury agreed with certain understandings. On 1 March 1978, the Treasury Department confirmed these understandings and also on 1 March 1978 the United States Steel Corp. submitted a letter formally withdrawing its petition.

Source: Federal Register, 6 and 24 March 1978.

Decision of no termination with respect to carbon steel bars and strip

On 16 February 1978, the International Trade Commission notified the Secretary of the Treasury that the pending department investigations on carbon steel bars and strip from the United Kingdom under the Anti-Dumping Act of 1921 should not be terminated. The Commission had been asked to determine if there was no reasonable indication of injury or the likelihood of injury to an industry in the United States from imports of such products from the United Kingdom possibly sold at less than fair value. The Commission made a negative determination in each case. As a result of the determinations by the Commission, the Treasury Department will continue its investigations.

Investigation under section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974

The United States International Trade Commission has initiated an investigation on a petition for "escape clause" import relief under section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to the following products:

- zinc from Australia and Canada, 5 January 1978;

- unwrought, unalloyed copper, in April 1978.

Source: Federal Register, 5 January 1978.

Proceedings with respect to welded stainless steel pipe and tubing

In February 1978, the United States International Trade Commission determined that firms exporting welded stainless steel pipe and tubing from Japan were engaged in "unfair" competition in the United States, and issued a "cease-and-desist" order based on United States anti-trust principles, which would direct the Japanese firms to halt "predatory" pricing.

End of April 1978, President Carter overruled the Commission's order directing Japanese firms to halt alleged predatory pricing practices in the sale of welded stainless steel pipe and tubing in the United States.

Early April 1978, the Treasury Department determined that imports of welded stainless steel pipe and tubing from Japan had been sold at less than fair value. The anti-dumping case was referred to the International Trade Commission which must decide within ninety days whether a United States industry is being injured by the sales.


Investigation under section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974

In February 1978, the Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations has initiated a review of a petition filed under section 301 of the 1974 Trade Act, alleging the existence of unfair trade practices by the USSR in the form of a requirement that insurance on exports or imports be placed with a Soviet State insurer.

Source: Commerce America, 27 February 1978.
Investigation under section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930

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:

- certain roller units, in February 1978;
- certain electric slow cookers, in February 1978;
- monumental wood windows, in February 1978;
- certain synthetic gemstones, on 10 March 1978.

Source: Commerce America, 27 February 1978.

Liquidation with respect to anti-dumping duties on television

End of March 1978, the United States Treasury Department decided to conduct liquidation with respect to anti-dumping duties imposed on television sets imported during the period of two years from January 1972 to December 1973. The determination to impose anti-dumping duty on various types of television sets from Japan was made in March 1971.


Decision to drop investigation against Japanese television sets

On 12 April 1978, the anti-trust division of the Justice Department has decided to drop its year-long investigation against Japanese television sets imports because no evidence of concerted predatory practices by Japanese producers was found.


Discontinuance regarding bilateral agreement petition

On 30 January 1978, the Office of the Special Trade Representative discontinued further action under section 301 of the 1974 Trade Act concerning the alleged diversion of Japanese steel to the United States market as a result of the bilateral agreement between the European Communities and Japan. The petition had been presented by the American Iron and Steel Institute.

Source: Federal Register, 30 January 1978.
UNITED STATES (cont'd)

Tariff increase on citizens band radio transceivers

On 7 April 1978, the Presidential Proclamation No. 4561 provided for a tariff increase with respect to imports of citizens band radio transceivers, on the basis of the recommendation by the United States International Trade Commission. The tariff will be increased by fifteen additional percentage points in the first year, to be phased down in three percentage point decrements for the following two years.

Source: L/4634 and Add.1 and 2.

Decision of no action with respect to lag screws or bolts

In February 1978, the President of the United States determined that import relief for the domestic producers of industrial fasteners (bolts, and large screws) would not be in the economic interest of the United States.

Source: L/4621 and Add.1.

Bilateral restraint agreement concerning footwear

In January 1978, United States customs supervisors have been instructed to monitor the imports of footwear from the Republic of Korea on a daily basis. The United States imports came close to the twelve-month quota limit after only half a year.

Source: Tariffs and Trade, 6 February 1978.
L/4525.

Notification of fees on sugar

On 20 January 1978, the President of the United States determined that the fee system to be imposed on imports of certain sugars, syrups and molasses, derived from sugar cane or sugar beets, was insufficient to carry out the requirements of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977, and he therefore modified it on that date. The details of this action are set forth in Proclamation 4547.

Source: L/4612/Add.1 and Add.2.
UNITED STATES (cont'd)

Meat import arrangements

In January 1978, the United States Government has reached basic agreement with the governments of major meat exporting countries on arrangements to govern United States import trade in meat, primarily beef, in 1978. The system of arrangements with supplying countries will assure that total imports into the United States in 1978 of meat subject to the Meat Import Law will not exceed the trigger level for quota imposition under the law.

Source: Foreign Agriculture, 6 February 1978.

Generalized System of Preferences: recent modifications

Eleven new items with a 1977 trade coverage of US$48.5 million were added to the United States GSP in March 1978, with beneficiary developing countries accounting for approximately US$36.2 million of the total. Certain amendments were introduced as a result of the implementation of the competitive need limitation provisions of the 1974 Trade Act.

Source: L/4299/Add.8.

Bilateral textile agreements

The secretariat has been informed that the United States Government has concluded bilateral textile agreements with Egypt, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Korea, Pakistan, Poland and Romania. These agreements came into effect on 1 January 1978. The agreement with the Philippines has been amended to be aligned to the new category system introduced in the United States as from 1 January 1978. Agreements with Japan (for 1978) and with Singapore have been initialled.

Source: COM.TEX/SB/300, 301, 303, 312, 314, 315 and 321.

UPPER VOLTA

Amendment of customs régime on imports

According to a decree adopted on 14 December 1977 by the Council of Ministers of Upper Volta, customs duties have been reintroduced on imports into Upper Volta of products originating in the member States of the EEC. This measure came into effect on 10 January 1978.


VENEZUELA

Temporary tariff exemptions

Imports of tyres for agricultural machinery, heavy transport vehicles, building machinery and industrial vehicles (tariff Nos. 40.11.01.04 and 40.11.01.07) may be imported free of duty until 31 December 1978. Furthermore, animal feed concentrates may be imported free of duty until 30 June 1978.

Source: Bundesstelle für Aussenhandels-informationen, 8 March 1978.
VENEZUELA (cont'd)

Introduction of import licensing and tariff increase

Venezuela introduced import licensing for the following products: iron and steel pipes (tariff Nos. 73.18.02.00, 73.18.03.00, 73.18.04.99, 73.18.05.99). The import duty on Item 73.18.05.99 has been increased from 1 per cent to 60 per cent (Ministerial Direction 1712 of 10 January 1978). Furthermore, imports of a number of other goods were made subject to obtaining import licences. The goods included tiles and paving (69.07, 69.08), sinks, washbasins etc. (69.10), certain types of refrigerative equipment (ex 84.15), certain types of washing machines (ex 85.12), television sets (ex 85.15). (Decree No. 2547 of 17 January 1978.)


Import prohibitions

Venezuela has prohibited the import of about 500 consumer products which are listed as non-essential. Previously the Government had announced a ban on imports of passenger cars and jeep-type vehicles of makes and models that are domestically produced. The cars and jeep-like vehicles permitted for import are subject to a rate of duty of 120 per cent and 50 per cent respectively on the basis of reference prices for customs valuation purposes established by the Government.


ZAMBIA

Customs duty increase

In presenting his budget to parliament on 27 January 1978, the Minister of Finance announced a customs duty increase on selected capital goods from 5 to 7½ per cent.


Customs tariff amendments

The Zambian Government Gazette 1830 announced increases in import duties which took effect from 28 January 1978. Parts of the following headings are affected: 22, 24, 27, 39, 49, 73, 74, 75, 76, 78, 79, 80, 82, 84, 85, 87.

ZAMBIA (cont'd)

Pre-shipment inspection of imports

Selected imports into Zambia are to be made subject to pre-shipment inspection by the General Superintendence Co. (otherwise known as Société Générale de Surveillance) acting as agents of the Bank of Zambia. It seems likely that only goods for shipment against import licences dated 1 January 1978 or later will be affected.

Trade and Industry, 14 April 1978.
BILATERAL AND REGIONAL AGREEMENTS

Trade Agreement between the European Economic Community and the People's Republic of China

Signed: on 3 April 1978, in Brussels.

Brief description of coverage: The Agreement is non-preferential. It has been concluded for five years with a provision for tacit renewal from year to year.

It includes:

1. Mutual extension of MFN treatment;

2. An agreement for sincere efforts towards balancing trade, establishing a procedure to work together when obvious imbalances arise;

3. A Chinese promise to give favourable consideration to imports from the EEC, and an EEC promise to increasingly liberalize imports from China;

4. Chinese acceptance of the Community safeguard clause, and EEC agreement to hold friendly consultations to deal with trade problems;

5. An improvement of conditions for visits and technical contacts connected with trade, the promotion of fairs, etc.

6. An agreement establishing a price clause in which China promises to trade at market-related prices.

Source: East-West, 12 April 1978.
Trade Agreement between Japan and China


Brief description of coverage: The Agreement will last for eight years. It will mean a near doubling of the normal trade between the countries over the first five of the eight years.

Each nation is to buy $10 billion worth of goods from the other. Japan will sell heavy equipment, entire industrial plants, construction material and equipment, and technology to China. In return, it will buy oil and coal.


Hungary-United States Trade Agreement

The United States and Hungary have concluded an agreement granting "most-favoured-nation" tariff status to Hungary for its exports to the United States.

The Agreement, subject to approval by Congress, will allow Hungarian goods to enter the United States on the same basis as those of other countries paying the lowest United States tariff rates. In exchange, the Agreement will exempt United States products exported to Hungary from higher tariff scales in effect there. These higher rates have, in the past, hindered United States firms from competing in the Hungarian market on equal terms with West European firms.

Source: International Herald Tribune, 6 March 1978.

Agreement on free trade between Poland and Finland

The Agreement on the reciprocal removal of obstacles to trade between Poland and Finland entered into force on 1 April 1978. According to its provisions customs duties on products originating in each of the signatories which fall within Chapters 25 to 99 and in some cases within Chapters 1 to 24 of the CCCN will be progressively abolished by 1 January 1980. No new charges having an effect equivalent to a customs duty on imports shall be introduced and existing charges were abolished.

Taking into consideration the existing differences in the foreign trade systems Poland undertook to administer her foreign trade system in conformity with the idea of free-trade agreements in such a manner as to provide to imports from Finland in respect to access to and competitiveness on the Polish market effectively the full benefits accruing from the reduction of customs duties and elimination of other restrictive regulations and practices of commerce.

Source: L/4652.
Trade Agreement between India and the Soviet Union

The Trade Protocol was initialled in New Delhi on 29 December 1977.

As a result of the Agreement, Indo-Soviet trade is expected to rise to Rs 10.56 billion in 1978, compared with Rs 9 billion in 1977.

The increase of between 15 and 17 per cent in trade volume is accounted for by an additional 1.5 million tonnes of crude oil the Soviet Union will supply to India and matching exports from India.

The Soviet Union will supply industrial raw materials like kerosene and diesel oil, urea, muriate of potash, chemicals, DDT sulphur and a number of non-ferrous metals like zinc, nickel, platinum and palladium.

The Soviet Union has also agreed to supply cotton, newsprint, asbestos, in addition to machinery and equipment including components, raw materials and spare parts for Soviet assisted projects in India.

India will export non-traditional items like steel structures, batteries, garage equipment, hand tools, medical and surgical instruments, aluminium power cables, dry-core cables and electronic instruments, in addition to traditional exports like tea, coffee, spices and cashew kernels.


Preferential trading arrangements among ASEAN member States (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand)

ASEAN countries were scheduled to implement as of 1 January 1978 tariff preferences covering seventy-one items agreed at the Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Trade and Tourism, June 1977, with an annual import turnover of US$500 million. The items include rice, sugar, crude oil, cement, animal products and chemicals. The preferences consist of two lists: voluntary offers made by individual ASEAN countries and trade preferences exchanged.


AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

Extension of NAFTA pact Agreement for clothing

Australia and New Zealand have agreed to extend the NAFTA pact Agreement for clothing for a further six-month period ending 31 August 1978.

New Zealand has agreed to reduce duty on Australian clothing from 32.5 per cent to 15 per cent and Australia has granted New Zealand an export quota of 1.5 million garments (New Zealand may continue to compete with third countries for the global quota).

Agreement between EEC and India on trade in coir products

Entry into force: Date of entry into force to be announced.
(The Agreement was concluded in January 1978.)

Brief description of coverage: The Community, in the context of its offer on generalized tariff preferences, has reduced to zero as from 1 January 1978 the duties of the Common Customs Tariff on manufactured coir products from India falling under CCT heading 58.02.

The Community will not subject imports of these products from India to new quantitative restrictions. Both parties to the Agreement agree to take all appropriate steps to facilitate the full utilization of the import possibilities deriving from existing quantitative restrictions.

The Agreement shall be valid until 31 December 1979.


Agreement between EEC and India on trade and commercial co-operation in jute products

Entry into force: Date of entry into force to be announced.
(The Agreement was concluded in January 1978.)

Coverage: The EEC, in the context of its offer on generalized tariff preferences, will reduce to zero as from 1 July 1978 the duties of the Common Customs Tariff on manufactured jute products from India falling under CCT headings 57.10 and 62.03.

The Community shall not subject imports of jute products from India to new quantitative restrictions.

As a first step in the direction of eliminating by stages remaining quantitative restrictions, the Community shall suspend the existing quantitative restrictions on the imports of certain jute products, provided that India applies such measures as are necessary to keep its exports within the quantitative limits set out in the Agreement.

If additional demand should arise on the Community market, the Community will not object to these quantitative limits being increased, on the understanding that the additional quantities shall be determined on the basis of mutual agreement between the Parties to the Agreement.
The Community shall not subject imports of jute yarn to
quantitative restrictions. However, the Community may, when
in its view the conditions prevailing in the Community or in
any of its markets are such that a limitation on further trade
may be necessary, request consultations with India.

The Agreement shall remain in force until 31 December 1979.