Communication from the Government of Italy
Dated 27 March 1953

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Italy ....,
wishes to avail itself, as in the past, of the provisions of Article XIV:1(c)
of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade with respect only to imports
originating in the countries in the dollar area. It, therefore, wishes
to initiate consultations with the CONTRACTING PARTIES in accordance with
Article XIV:1(g).

In the past year Italy has almost completely abolished its quantitative
restrictions on imports from countries with which it experienced no payments
difficulties. In fact, nearly all categories of commodities can be
freely imported from countries in the EPU and practically no quantitative
restriction exists on imports from other countries not belonging in the
dollar area.

On the other hand, with respect to the countries of the dollar area,
notably the United States and Canada, the Italian Government requests that
it be authorized to maintain quantitative restrictions on imports from
these countries, as the balance of its current accounts with them continues
to present a considerable deficit.

In 1951 and 1952 the Italian balance of payments with the countries
in the dollar area presented a deficit of about $312 million and $210 million
respectively. This deficit was covered by payments in the form of grants
from the ECA, which, in the two years in question, amounted to $279 million
and $218 million.