INFORMATION FOR THE FOURTH REPORT UNDER ARTICLE XIV:1 (g)

GREECE

Statement of 4 July 1953 in reply to
Questionnaire in L/69

Question 1 - Technique of Restrictions

Immediately after the readjustment of the drachma in relation to foreign currencies, in April 1953, the Greek import system was completely recast on the basis of importation of goods without quantitative or qualitative restrictions, save a few rare exceptions. It should be noted this measure is autonomous; it is independent of the liberalization which was fixed within the scope of the OEEC and which preserves rights, as stipulated under Article 3, Paragraph D, of the Liberalization Code. This measure was adopted as a result of Resolution No. 29268 of 17 April 1953 of the Council of Foreign Trade, according to which all goods - except a small number of luxury articles mentioned therein and in regard to which a special import permit is required - are imported freely, under the following specifications:

(a) The value of the goods imported from countries which are members of the European Payments Union, and Finland, Yugoslavia, Spain, Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia or other countries, is paid through the European Payments Union, or by means of clearing agreements in accordance with E 2 procedure, i.e., on the basis of credits made freely available by any trade bank, on submission by the importers of an invoice visaed by the competent commissions operating with the Chambers of Commerce.

(b) The value of goods from countries specified in the purchasing permits for transactions financed by the Mutual Security Administration (M.S.A.) of the United States Government, is paid according to procedure "D".

In accordance with that procedure, articles from the United States and Canada are imported under payment in dollars purchased by the State, and not in American Aid dollars.

(c) Procedure "D" is likewise applied to imports from other sources, for which payments are made in some other way than those referred to under sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above, but an additional permit by the Executive Committee of the Foreign Trade Administration is required.
According to Procedure "D", imports are carried out following an application to an intermediary bank, which forwards it to the Imports Department of the Bank of Greece for final approval.

Imports of machinery in general and their spare parts, are carried out under the above procedure, and subject to approval by the Ministry of Industry.

Imports from countries with which Greece is not bound by trade agreements, and which do not grant currency for the payment of Greek products, are regulated by Decision No. 34675/14.5.53 of the Council of Foreign Trade. In accordance with that decision, the articles imported under Decision No. 29268/17.4.53 (Paragraph 1, sub-paragraph a) from the above-mentioned countries may be introduced in exchange for exports of Greek goods of the same value.

**Question 2 - State-Trading**

For a reply to this question, reference should be made to the reply to questionnaire GATT/CP/89(51) of the Sixth Session, and in addition, that the goods which hitherto were imported by the Directorate of Foreign Purchases or exclusively through the qualified Importers' Unions (such as wheat and flour, rice, coffee, sugar, coal) may now be imported also by private traders, on conditions indicated above.

**Question 3 - Basis of Restriction**

In accordance with Resolution No. 29268, and as explained in the reply to question 1, freedom of imports having been established in principle, the quantity and class of goods imported are not subject to criteria determined in advance.

**Question 4 - Action to avoid Damage to the Trade of other Contracting Parties**

After liberalization of imports, in accordance with the above, there is no reason to adopt special measures to avoid damage to the trade of the contracting parties, except for a small number of products (Resolution 29268), which are importable after approval by an ad hoc committee set up for the purpose. As for trademarks and patents, they are protected by specific laws in accordance with the International Convention of Paris-Brussels-Washington-The Hague-London, relating to the "Establishment of a Union for the Protection of Industrial Property" to which Greece is a party.

**Question 5 - Policy of Discrimination**

Under the new import system a discrimination might arise as a result of a limitation of freely available means of payment, which would make it impossible to import from countries not belonging to the European Payments Union, or to introduce imports which were not financed by American Aid dollars.
The same restrictions on imports of Greek goods might arise in countries whose exports to Greece had to be counterbalanced by corresponding imports of Greek goods.

Question 6 - Considerations affecting Source of Imports

The reply to this question is supplied by the above, and especially by replies to questions 1 and 5.

Question 7 - Import Arrangements with other Countries

In addition to the agreement mentioned in the reply already supplied to the questionnaire GATT/CP/89 (1951), agreements have been concluded with Turkey, Brazil, Chile, Poland, Egypt and Hungary.

Question 8 - Import Programme for 1953

After adoption of the new import system, no programme has been set up; the policy followed is explained in the replies to the above questions.

Question 9 - Incidental Protective Effects of Restrictions

The new import system which Greece has just introduced embodies measures which are able to reduce to the lowest possible degree incidental protective effects of restrictions.

Appended to this Note are (a) a Bulletin of Special Trade of Greece, containing information in relation to imports for the years 1951 and 1952, classified according to products and export countries, and (b) a translation in English of Resolutions Nos. 29268/17.4.53 and 34675/13.5.53 of the Council of Foreign Trade.\(^1\)

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\(^1\) Only one copy of each of these has been supplied by the Greek Government and is on file at the secretariat.