CONSULTATION WITH AUSTRALIA UNDER ARTICLE XII:4(b)

Topics for Discussion Proposed by the Chairman

The following list of topics is proposed by the Chairman for adoption by the Committee as a guidance in the conduct of this consultation. It is principally based on the provisions of paragraph 4 (a) of Article XII, in which the subject matters for consultations under paragraph 4(b) are enumerated. These include: the nature of the balance-of-payments difficulties, alternative measures that may be available and the effects of the restrictions on the trade of other contracting parties.

I. Circumstances leading to the Intensification

1. Changes in exports and imports;
2. Changes in other external receipts and payments;
3. The resulting changes in gold and foreign exchange reserves;
4. Effects of governmental policies on the balance of payments;
5. Prospects for the future.

II. Alternative Measures to restore Equilibrium

6. Internal fiscal and monetary measures to preserve or restore equilibrium (see Article XII:3(c)(i));
7. Long-term measures, e.g. to raise productivity and export capacity, to reduce structural disequilibrium or rigidities;
8. Measures expected to have more immediate effect on the balance of payments;

III. Nature and Extent of the Intensification

9. Categories of goods affected; changes in quotas, and treatment of goods for which no quotas are provided;
10. Treatment of exports from different countries or currency areas; increase or reduction in discrimination;
11. Level of restrictions resulting from the intensification in relation to the need for restrictions (see Article XII:2(a));
12. Expected duration of the intensified restrictions; possibility of alleviation or modification in the near future.

IV. Effects on Trade

13. Expected changes in imports as a result of the intensification (total and from different currency areas);
14. The avoidance of unnecessary damage in accordance with Article XII:3(c)(iii), including steps:

(a) to alleviate hardships by admitting goods under firm order placed before the intensification;

(b) to preserve the normal channels of trade, through admitting token imports, avoiding total prohibition, etc;

15. Steps taken to reduce the protective effects of the restrictions;

16. Effects of the restrictions on particular commodities of interest to individual contracting parties.