CONTRACTING PARTIES TAKE A DECISION REGARDING
GERMAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

At the twelfth session in 1957 the CONTRACTING PARTIES, on the basis of the findings of the International Monetary Fund, decided that the Federal Republic of Germany was no longer entitled to maintain import restrictions under Article XII.

Since that time the matter has been under frequent examination. The Federal Republic has consulted with the countries principally concerned and has, from time to time, proceeded by successive stages to reduce the number of import restrictions still maintained by it. However, some products have remained subject to import controls.

At this session a working party was appointed which, in considering the suggestions of the Federal Republic, took as its point of departure a United States proposal. On the basis of the report of the working party the CONTRACTING PARTIES have taken a Decision which provides a framework for a settlement of the problem of import restrictions maintained by the Federal Republic.

Under the terms of the Decision, taken on 30 May, the CONTRACTING PARTIES have taken note that the Federal Republic intends to take further measures of liberalization on a list of products and that restrictions on a short list of products will be progressively relaxed and liberalized in accordance with certain terms and conditions. The CONTRACTING PARTIES have also taken note that the Federal Republic is ready to make all possible efforts to reduce the number of restrictions still maintained and, therefore, to lessen the scope of the problem; in particular, when reviewing the Marketing Laws (under the terms of which the Federal Government contends that it is entitled to maintain restrictions on imports of products specified in those Laws) the Federal Government will seek to ensure that any measures applied to products covered by these Laws are consistent with the General Agreement.

The Decision grants the Federal Republic the right to maintain for three years import restrictions on a specified list of products subject to certain conditions.

The restrictions maintained on a number of these products will be so administered as to impose no practical impediment to imports from any contracting party - that is to say - that these products will be the subject of unlimited global tender arrangements without restrictions as to quantity or source of supply.

The import restrictions covered by the Marketing Laws and other import restrictions under this Decision will be administered in accordance with the relevant provisions of the General Agreement.