WORKING PARTY 2 ON ARTICLE XVIII

Supplementary Information requested by the Working Party on the Measures notified by Lebanon and Syria

The following questions (No. 23-30) have been submitted by the representative of the United States:

23. Citrus fruits

If the domestic fruit industry requires extraordinary protection in addition to a 50 per cent duty, how are the exports shown for 1938 and 1947 explained?

24. Wheat, barley and derivatives

It is understood that the former monopoly has been replaced by a licensing system. How does this licensing system continue the functions of the monopoly as described in GATT/CP.3/WP.2/6?

(a) In the event of a surplus crop how does this "offset exports"?

(b) In the event of a poor harvest what function does it perform?

How does it help development of this branch of agriculture?

Document No. GATT/CP.3/1 Add.5 (page 4) states that importers not requiring foreign exchange are not required to obtain import licenses. Can this statement be enlarged to indicate the scope of this exception and the reason for it?

25. Rye, rice, barley, oats, maize

Were these grains subject to monopoly control and if so has monopoly now been replaced by licensing? In that event please provide same information as requested under (24) above.

26. Oats

If import controls were not in effect in 1938 (as indicated by GATT/CP.3/WP.2/6) what is the reason for the very low imports in that year?

27. Buckwheat

What is the reason for the large exports and negligible imports? Do these figures indicate low production costs in Lebanon?

28. Cement

WP.2/W.1/Add.2 refers to a table showing cost comparisons between cost of domestic production and import prices. The representative of the U.S. has been unable to find such a comparison in this or in other documents submitted by the Syrian delegate. Can this comparison be provided?
29. Cotton and cotton textiles

It would appear that the expanding Syrian-Lebanon textile industry is absorbing all of the increased output of raw cotton of Syria and requires additional raw cotton in the form of imports:

(a) What evidence is there that increased raw cotton production could not compete with imported cotton?

(b) How would restrictions on imports of raw cotton encourage the Syrian-Lebanon cotton textile industry?

30. Other textiles

Are Syrian or Lebanon producers of the raw materials required for wool, silk, rayon and nylon textiles?

The following question has been submitted by the representative of the United Kingdom:

31. Wheat, Barley

Allowing for fluctuations from year to year, which are presumably due to climatic conditions and other factors, the yield per hectare in respect of both wheat and barley seems to have declined steadily in the last ten years, including the years since the imposition of the protective measures. (In the case of wheat, while acreage has been almost trebled, production has remained at approximately the same level: in the case of barley, while acreage has increased about one and a half times, production has declined). It would be helpful to know if there are any special factors which reconcile these facts with the economic development of these two branches of agriculture in the last few years.

The following question has been submitted by the representative of France.

32. Glass and Glassware

Whether the condition of production of glass and glassware in Syria and Lebanon would permit this industry to maintain selling prices sufficiently low to survive when the exceptional measures of protection under Article XVIII will have terminated.