

GATT/AIR/57

29 MARCH 1955

SUBJECT: INTENSIFICATION OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS BY AUSTRALIA

1. BY LETTER DATED 22 MARCH 1955 THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA HAS TRANSMITTED AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF A DECISION TO INTENSIFY ITS IMPORT RESTRICTIONS, EFFECTIVE FROM 1 APRIL 1955. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, RECEIVED ON 23 MARCH 1955, HAS BEEN CIRCULATED TO CONTRACTING PARTIES
..... IN DOCUMENT L/350, A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED HERETO.

2. THESE MEASURES APPEAR PRIMA FACIE TO AMOUNT TO A SUBSTANTIAL INTENSIFICATION WITHIN THE MEANING OF ARTICLE XII:4(b) AND THEREFORE TO CALL FOR THE INITIATION OF A CONSULTATION UNDER THAT PROVISION. IF SUCH A CONSULTATION IS INITIATED IT WOULD PRESUMABLY BE CONDUCTED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE BY THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE OR A WORKING PARTY APPOINTED BY THE COMMITTEE.

3. IT MAY, HOWEVER, BE THE CASE THAT IN VIEW OF THE RECENT TERMINATION OF A LENGTHY SESSION OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES, AND THE FACT THAT CONSULTATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA WERE CONDUCTED AT THAT SESSION, CONTRACTING PARTIES WILL NOT BE DISPOSED TO CARRY OUT A FURTHER CONSULTATION AT ONCE. IF SO, THE QUESTION WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE.

4. ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE MEASURES REFERRED TO DO, IN FACT, BRING THE CASE WITHIN THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE XII:4(b), CONTRACTING PARTIES ARE REQUESTED TO INDICATE:

- (A) WHETHER THEY DESIRE THAT A CONSULTATION SHOULD FORTHWITH BE INITIATED AND PROMPTLY CARRIED OUT; OR ALTERNATIVELY
- (B) WHETHER THEY AGREE TO WAIVE THE TIME LIMIT CONTAINED IN ARTICLE XII:4(b) ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE MATTER WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE INTERSESSIONAL COMMITTEE WHEN IT IS FIRST CONVENED FOR OTHER BUSINESS.

5. CONTRACTING PARTIES ARE REQUESTED TO COMMUNICATE THEIR PREFERENCE FOR EITHER OF THE TWO ALTERNATIVES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND IN ANY CASE NOT LATER THAN 20 APRIL 1955.

E. WYNDHAM WHITE