

8 November 1955

Working Party 8 on
Balance-of Payments RestrictionsPLAN FOR CONSULTATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XIV:1(g)

In June 1955, when the Intersessional Committee appointed a working party to conduct a consultation initiated with Australia under the provisions of Article XII:4(b), it referred to the working party for its guidance a plan in which were listed a number of topics which it was considered should be covered by a consultation of that nature. In its report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES (L/370) the working party noted that its experience had shown that future consultations would be greatly facilitated by advance preparation and by the use of a plan of that kind, suitably amended and adopted on each occasion.

In the light of this experience, the Chairman proposes that a similar plan be drawn up for the guidance of the working party now appointed to conduct the consultations which have been initiated by five contracting parties under Article XIV:1(g). The plan proposed by the Chairman is as follows:

Basis for the application of discrimination

1. Trade and payments position with respect to various currency areas.
2. Reserve position in general and exchange holdings in various currencies.
3. Participation in multilateral or regional payments arrangements.
4. General position and the reasons for the continued resort to the provisions of Article XIV:1(c) or of Annex J.

System of discriminatory restrictions and their effects

5. Description of the system of restrictions applying to different areas or countries; changes in the past year.
6. Changes in quotas for imports from such areas or countries, or changes in the criteria used in licensing imports not under quota.
7. Price considerations as a factor in determining licensing policy.
8. Extent to which bilateral agreements are used; their nature and scope (whether they provide for the fixing of import quotas, or involve undertaking to purchase goods or to issue import licences, etc); their effects on the administration of import restrictions.
9. Effects of discriminatory restrictions on particular commodities of interest to individual contracting parties and any measures that might be taken to alleviate damage.