

19 November 1958

REVIEW OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS UNDER
ARTICLES XII:4(b) AND XVIII:12(b)Proposed additional paragraph for
the report of the Working Party (W.13/54)

The Working Party was asked to carry out the review of import restrictions provided for in paragraph 4(b) of Article XII and paragraph 12(b) of Article XVIII. As instructed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES the secretariat prepared a preliminary draft report to embody the result of the review, which was circulated to the members of the Working Party and other contracting parties on 11 November 1958. Taking account of the purpose of the review, the secretariat draft covered not only the present situation in the use of import restrictions but also changes in the world balance-of-payments situation and the use of restrictions through the past six or seven years. In view of the comprehensive coverage and the short time available the Working Party has found it difficult to examine the text in a thorough manner. Instead of recommending a text which may be found to be unsatisfactory at a later stage, the Working Party considers that more time should be allowed for contracting parties to reflect further on the matter and to examine the draft closely. The Working Party has therefore arranged for the secretariat draft to be formally circulated to all contracting parties (W.13/53), and suggests that contracting parties should be requested to send any comments or suggestions which they have in the draft to the secretariat as early as possible and not later than 15 January 1959. On the basis of the comments and suggestions received the secretariat should prepare a revised text for circulation in February. The revised text should be examined by the Committee on Balance-of-Payments Restrictions when it meets in March 1959 and the agreed text can then be submitted for approval by the CONTRACTING PARTIES.