

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Committee on Trade and Development
Consultations on Tropical Products
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THE 1983 CONSULTATIONS ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS

Notification by developed contracting parties

In GATT/AIR/1931 dated 14 July 1983, developed contracting parties were invited to inform the secretariat of any action taken or under consideration with respect to suggestions made in the course of the round of consultations on trade liberalization held under the auspices of the Committee on Trade and Development in March 1982 (Spec(82)35).¹ In response to the invitation, the delegations of Australia, Japan, New Zealand and Norway have provided the following information.

¹This document has also been circulated as Annex 3 to Spec(83)35.

AUSTRALIA

In accordance with the request contained in GATT/AIR/1931 of 14 July 1983, the following information is provided by Australia on action taken or under consideration with respect to suggestions made in the course of the round of consultations on trade liberalisation held under the auspices of the Committee on Trade and Development in March 1982 (Spec(82)35).

Tropical Products (document Spec(82)35)

- Spices and Spice Products (page 4)

Suggestion sought technological assistance from all countries and the promotion of consumption in selected markets so as to increase imports. The Australian Market Advisory Service is currently preparing a report on the Australian import market for spices. This report will be distributed in the usual way to developing country diplomatic missions in Australia and, on request, to the official trade promotion authorities of developing countries.

- Tropical Nuts and Products

(A) Suggestion sought reduction of tariff escalation on tropical nuts on an MFN basis or under the GSP. Processed tropical nuts, with the exception of peanuts, already enter Australia duty free from developing countries (MFN rate is 2 percent). There is no D.C. margin of preference for peanuts, which enter Australia at an MFN rate of 11 c/kilo, as developing countries are already the major supplier of this product to Australia.

(B) Suggestion sought reduction by a number of importing countries, including Australia, of tariff rate on chestnuts, hazelnuts, walnuts and pistachio nuts. These nuts already enter Australia duty-free from all sources.

- Other Tropical Fruits and Products (page 12)

Suggestion sought from all importing developed countries separate tariff classification or sub-classification for processed tropical fruits. A number of tariff reductions (m.f.n. and GSP) made by Australia in 1983 are indicated in COM.TD/W/352/Add.3, Table 1.

- Wood and Wood Products (page 15)

(A) Suggestion sought from Australia a separate tariff classification and reduction of MFN duty from 15 percent to 7.5 percent on veneer sheets and sheets for plywood, of a thickness not exceeding 5 mm of Philippine mahogany (ex 44.14.900).

With effect from 9 December 1982 the MFN duty on these goods was reduced to 5 percent. As developing countries are already major suppliers of veneer and plywood sheets, no D.C. margin of preference is offered.

(B) Suggestion sought from Australia a reduction of MFN duty or GSP treatment for other plywood (44.15.110, 190).

The MFN rate on plywood is being progressively reduced at 3 percent per year - it will reach the long term rate of 25 percent on 10 December 1986. No D.C. preference is offered because developing countries are major suppliers of plywood and the introduction of a preference would cause injury to the local industry.

(C) Suggestion sought from Australia a reduction of MFN duty of 30 percent or GSP treatment for blackboard, laminboard etc. (44.15.900).

From 9 December 1982 MFN rate was set at 15 percent.

- Rubber and Rubber Products (page 18)

Suggestion sought from Australia reduction in GSP rates for goods falling within tariff items 40.07, 40.08, 40.14 and sub-item 40.11.3 (to 15 percent, 10 percent, 10 percent and 10 percent respectively) and the introduction of GSP treatment under sub-item 40.11.9.

Comments on these products are set out in document Spec(82)28/Rev.1/Add.1 of 15 October 1982.

The only changes since that document involve some restructuring of items 40.11 and 40.14 on the introduction of the simplified Australian tariff on 1 January 1983.

Under item 40.11 Tyres (other than tyres for cycles, motor cycles and motor scooters) now fall to sub-items 40.11.2 and 40.11.9 and are covered by a D.C. quota of 1,650,000 Australian dollars per year. Imports within quota are dutiable at 15 percent (40.11.2) or are duty-free (40.11.9). Imports outside the quota pay the respective MFN rates of 25 percent and 15 percent.

Under item 40.14, goods from developing country sources are dutiable as follows : inspection lamps and parts, 20 percent; gaskets and similar joints of a kind used with pipes together with mats, 15 percent; remainder, free. MFN rate is 25 percent.

JAPAN

In conjunction with the 1983 consultations on tropical products, I have the pleasure of submitting herewith information concerning actions taken by the Japanese Government with respect to tropical products since March 1982.

Japan has been endeavouring to contribute to the expansion of the world trade and economy, having in mind the important role of the developing countries. To this end, Japan took in recent years a series of trade liberalization measures which are of a unilateral nature. Included are recent reduction and elimination of duties, relaxation of quantitative restrictions and improvement measures in the field of tobacco distribution system which are of interest to developing countries. As for the reduction and elimination of duties, these are those which were implemented in advance of their stagings under the Tokyo Round Agreement and also those which are not subject to the Tokyo Round Agreement. These actions are all the more significant today when the world economy is in stagnation and protectionist pressures are arising around the world.

Actions taken with respect to tropical products
since March 1982

1. Spices and spice products

		(1982.3)	(1983.9)
09.04-110	Pepper, put up in containers for retail sale	MFN 8.5%	— 7.5%
" -220	Pepper, ground or mixed	" 4.4%	— 4.1%
09.07-100	Cloves, put up in containers for retail sale	" 8.5%	— 7.5%
" -220	Cloves, ground	" 4.4%	— 4.1%
09.08-210	Nutmeg, put up in containers for retail sale	" 8.5%	— 7.5%
" -223	Nutmeg, ground or mixed	" 4.4%	— 4.1%
09.10-100	Curry	" 15%	— 13.5%
" -319	Other spices, put up in containers for retail sale	" 8.5%	— 7.5%
" -329	Other spices, ground or mixed	" 4.4%	— 4.1%

2. Cocoa and cocoa products

18.05-000	Cocoa powder, unsweetened	MFN 24.1%	— 21.5%
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3. Oilseeds and vegetable oils

15.07-700	Coconut oil	MFN 9.6% or 10 yen/kg whichever is the greater	9% or 10 yen/kg whichever is the greater
" -810	Palm oil	" 7.6%	— 7.4%
" -920	Castor oil	" 9.6%	— 9%
" -999	Other fixed vegetable oils	" 22.43 yen/kg	— 20.7 yen/kg

(1982.3) (1983.9)

4. Tobacco and tobacco products

(1) Tariffs

- a. Manufactured tobacco, intended for use in exercising the right of monopoly based on the provision of Article 3 of the Tobacco Monopoly Law

24.02-121 Cigarettes	MFN 35%	—	10%+342 yen/ 1000 pieces
" -110 Cigars and cheroots	" 35%	—	20%
" -122 Pipe tobacco	" 60%	—	35%
" -129 Homogenized or reconstituted tobacco	" 7%	—	Free
" -129 Other	" 7%	—	4%

- b. Manufactured tobacco, other

24.02-121 Cigarettes	" 180%	—	150%
" -110 Cigars and cheroots	" 170%	—	150%
" -122 Pipe tobacco	" 190%	—	150%
" -129 Other	" 50%	—	40%

- (2) Further promotion of Distribution for Foreign Tobacco Products based on the Decision of Ministerial Conference for Economic Measures on January 13, 1983.

The number of outlets handling imported tobacco products was expanded from 20,000 to 40,000 in Nagoya and other major cities except the Tokyo and Osaka areas as from 1 April 1983. (Decision of Ministerial Conference for Economic Measures on January 13, 1983 has been notified earlier and was circulated as document L/5454 dated 26 January 1983)

5. Banana and banana products

08.01-120 Banana, dried	MFN 7.1%	—	6.6%
" -110 Banana, fresh			
If imported during the period from 1st April to 30th Sept.	GSP 35%	—	25%
If imported during the period from 1st Oct. to 31st March	" 45%	—	40%

6. Tropical nuts and products (1982.3) (1983.9)

(1) Tariffs

08.01-410	Coconuts	MFN	8.5%	—	7.5%
"	-420 Brazil nuts	"	8.5%	—	7.5%
"	-430 Cashew nuts	"	3.1%	—	1.9%
08.05-410	Sweet almonds, fresh or dried	"	7.1%	—	4%
		GSP	5%	—	3%
"	-430 Macadamia nut	MFN	17%	—	12%
14.05-590	Shell of nuts	"	10%	—	Free
20.02-291	Ripe olive in airtight containers not more than 10kg each including container	MFN	14.3%	—	9%
		GSP	12%	—	7%
20.06-273	Macadamia nuts, roasted	MFN	14.5%	—	10%
"	"	GSP	10%	—	8%
"	-274 Macadamia nuts, other	MFN	14.5%	—	10%
"	"	GSP	10%	—	8%
21.07-212	Peanut butter, containing added sugar	MFN	32.2%	—	25%
		GSP	25%	—	20%

(2) Import quota for peanuts

Minimum amount of import quota for peanuts for three years starting from FY 1983 is set at about 50,000 tonnes and efforts will be made in order to import about 60,000 tonnes by FY 1985

(Decision of Ministry Conference for Economic Measures on January 13, 1983)

7. Other tropical fruit and products

(1) Tariffs

08.01-220	Pineapples, dried	MFN	17%	—	15%
"	-441 Mangoes, fresh	"	8.5%	—	6%
"	-451 Avocados and mangosteens, fresh	"	8.5%	—	6%
"	-461 Guavas, fresh	"	8.5%	—	6%
"	-442 Mangoes, dried	"	10%	—	6%
"	-452 Avocados and mangosteens, dried	"	10%	—	6%

		(1982.3)	(1983.9)
08.01-462 Guavas, dried	MFN	8.5% —	6%
08.09-020 Papaya	"	8.5% —	4%
" -030 Kiwifruits	"	9.5% —	8%
08.10-010 Fruit(Papaya,Avocados,etc.), preserved by freezing,not containing added sugar	"	17% —	15%
20.07-222 Mixtures of vegetable juice, in airtight containers	MFN	14% —	11%
	GSP	12% —	9%
" Mixtures of vegetable juice, other than in airtight con- tainers	MFN	12.4% —	9%
	GSP	12% —	7%
" -229 Other vegetable juice, other than in airtight containers	MFN	13.1% —	12%
	GSP	12% —	10%
21.07-221 Bases for beverage,non- alcoholic,containing panax ginseng or its extract	MFN	22.8% —	19.7%
	GSP	20% —	16%
22.05-210 Wine of fresh grapes,other, in containers of a capacity exceeding 150 l	GSP	60yen/l —	40 yen/l

(2) Expansion of import quota

a. Pineapple, in airtight container

Allocation of more than 800 thousands cases for three years from FY 1982 (800 thousands cases is the amount of import quota for FY 1981)

(Additional Measures to Open up the Japanese Market, May 28, 1982)

b. Tropical fruit juice

Introduction of the planned import quota of 1,000 tonnes for tropical fruit juice, prune juice, cranberry juice (excluding pineapple juice) for three years from FY 1983

(Decision of Ministry Conference for Economic Measures on January 13, 1983)

c. Fruit puree and fruit paste

Allocation of 3,000 tonnes for three years from FY 1983
(Decision of Ministry Conference for Economic Measures
on January 13, 1983)

8. Wood and wood products

		(1982.3)	(1983.9)
44.15-111	Plywood, varnished, printed, grooved, overlaid or similarly surface-worked, (tangued, grooved or similarly works on one or both sides)	MFN 20%	— 18.8%
" -119	" " (other)	" 20%	— 18.8%
44.15-194	Plywood, other (not less than 6mm but less than 12mm in thickness)	MFN 20%	— 19.3%
" -195	" (not less than 12mm in thickness)	" 20%	— 19.3%

NEW ZEALAND

In preparation for the 1983 Consultations on Tropical Products, I am pleased to set out below information supplied by my authorities concerning action taken or under consideration with respect to suggestions made during the round of consultations on trade liberalization held under the auspices of the Committee on Trade and Development in March 1982.

This information is of course additional to that supplied by New Zealand during or in immediate follow-up to the 1982 consultations.

Tea and Instant Tea

Import duty on tea in retail packs has been reduced to free. Import licence tendering is continuing, with \$1,000,000 being offered for tender in June 1983, and a further \$1,000,000 in November. Imports of tea in retail packages have increased from \$115,540 CIF in 1981/82 to \$459,980 CIF in 1982/83.

Spices and Spice Products

Import licence tendering is continuing for unground spices in retail packs. \$30,000 was offered for tender in June, and a similar amount will be offered in November 1983. Discussions are continuing with the industry over the import licence position for ground spices in retail packs.

Coconut Oil

Following the cessation of domestic manufacture, coconut oil was removed from schedule 3 of SPARTECA, to allow duty free unrestricted access from all Forum Island countries. Global licensing will be retained to protect refined production in the Forum Island Countries. (Western Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Papua New Guinea) and licences will be issued only where these countries cannot supply. However manufactures needing crude coconut oil will be considered under normal licensing criteria for manufactures raw materials. The effect of this is that importers will have the option of buying oil from any source they wish.

Tobacco

Additional licences for tobacco products were issued during 1982/83 on the basis of 150 percent of 1981/82 licences, or 2 percent of domestic purchases in the year ending 31 March 1982. 1983/84 licences will be 200 percent of 1982/83 licences. Import licensing protection will be reviewed during 1984.

Rice

As advised in 1982, this product was exempted from import licensing on 1 July 1981.

NEW ZEALAND (continued)

Tropical Nuts

The tendering for ground nuts in retail packs under the packing industry study has been completed, and results are being assessed. A decision on future licensing will be announced before the end of the year.

Canned Pineapples

These have now been exempted from import licence requirements and a new GSP rate introduced.

Duty rates are now as follows:

Normal (m.f.n.)	30%
Canada	10%
Malaysia	10%
Developing countries	
(GSP)	15%
PAC (SPARTECA)	FREE
Australia	5%

Rubber and Rubber Products

The IDC rubber industry study was made public in 1982. Government decisions on the plan have been withheld pending further consultations with the industry. Decisions should be announced by the end of September 1983.

NORWAY

With reference to GATT/AIR/1931 I may give the following information on action under consideration with respect to suggestions and requests made in the course of the round of consultations on trade liberalization held under the auspices of the Committee on Trade and Development in March 1982.

An informal interdepartemental committee has been established to consider the possibilities for increasing imports of agricultural products from developing countries. The committee will examine our restrictions and a possible elimination for the benefit of developing countries on a product-by-product basis. Its work is expected to be concluded in late autumn.

For further information reference is made to the Norwegian notification regarding the consultations concerning GATT's Part IV.