

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED
SCM/Spec/2
22 January 1981

Committee on Subsidies and
Countervailing Measures

Original: English

REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 12:1 OF THE AGREEMENT

Communication from the United States

The United States Trade Representative has requested that the following communication, sent to the Permanent Delegation of the European Communities on 9 January 1981, be brought to the attention of Signatories.

I have been instructed by my authorities to request, pursuant to Article 12:1 of the Agreement on Interpretation and Application of Articles VI, XVI, and XXIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, consultations with the Commission of the European Communities concerning certain export subsidy programmes maintained by Greece. In this regard, the United States has identified at least three export subsidy programmes currently maintained by Greece that we believe are inconsistent with the provisions of the Agreement, and thereby constitute a violation of the obligations of the Communities. These three programmes are:

- A. A rebate of social security taxes in contravention of Item (E) of the illustrative list.
- B. A rebate of turnover tax in contravention of Item (H) of the illustrative list.
- C. An interest rebate, implemented by currency committee decision 1574/70, in contravention of Item (A) of the illustrative list.

It should be emphasized that these three export subsidy programmes are those that we have identified to date. We have reason to believe that there may be others. If we do identify other Greek export subsidy programmes prior to the requested consultations, we will inform you of these programmes at once since we would naturally wish also to include a consideration of such programmes in the consultations.

In accordance with Article 12:5 of the Agreement, we hope that you could enter into these consultations as quickly as possible in order that we might arrive at a mutually acceptable solution to this matter on an expeditious basis.