

**GENERAL AGREEMENT ON  
TARIFFS AND TRADE**

RESTRICTED

L/5859  
2 September 1985

Limited Distribution

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Original: English

UNITED STATES - RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF  
COTTON PILLOWCASES AND BEDSHEETS

Recourse to Article XXIII by Portugal

The following communication, dated 20 August 1985, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Portugal with the request that it be circulated to contracting parties.

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On 29 March 1985 the United States authorities asked for consultations on Portuguese exports of cotton pillowcases and bedsheets (categories 360 and 361 of the TSUS) to the United States' market, looking forward to establish maximum levels of the exports of those products.

The Portuguese authorities have accepted the consultations under Article XXII of the GATT, although they considered that the extremely low levels both of the total exports and of the exports of those products from Portugal to the United States did not call for such consultations.

These consultations took place in Lisbon from 12-14 June 1985 without the two parties arriving to any agreement.

Despite the fact that the Portuguese authorities were prepared to pursue the consultations, the American authorities unilaterally adopted, on 17 July 1985, restrictive measures against the imports of cotton pillowcases and bedsheets from Portugal, for a twelve-month period of time, starting on 29 March 1985.

The Portuguese authorities consider that there is no legal or economic basis for this unilateral action which violates the principles and objectives of the General Agreement.

In these circumstances and on instructions of my authorities, I wish to request consultations under Article XXIII of the General Agreement, looking forward to a satisfactory solution for the problem as mentioned above.

I would be grateful if these consultations could be arranged in the shortest delay, in Geneva.