

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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UNITED STATES EXPORT SUBSIDY ON SULTANAS

Note by the Turkish Government

The Turkish Government have continued to remain in touch with the United States Government with a view to attaining the abolition or substantial reduction of subsidies granted by the latter on exports of sultanas. But the United States Government have not felt they were in a position, in the near future, to relinquish export subsidies on sultanas.

As a result either of export subsidies or readjustment in their currency value, some countries exporting raisins attained privileged positions on many markets where Turkey, amongst others, is a traditional supplier. This situation has constrained the Turkish Government to take emergency measures to preserve these markets and thus to ward off the threat of injury for a large proportion of the population of a specific area in Turkey whose livelihood is derived from cultivating and trading in that product.

The following figures will illustrate how urgent was the need to adopt protective measures to maintain exports of sultanas at a normal level. Exports of Turkish sultanas in the last three years have dropped from 62,577 tons in 1950-51 to 43,295 tons in 1951-52 and, further to the low level of only 34,174 tons in 1952-53.

This protective measure by the Turkish Government consists of granting a provisional subsidy on exports of sultanas. The subsidy is fixed at a reasonable level and does not exceed the subsidy by the United States on exports of their own sultanas.

The Turkish Government have heard, moreover, that the United States Government have decided to reduce their grants on exports of sultanas for the season 1953-1954 from 2½ to 2 cents a pound.

Although this reduction is a step in the direction of reduction of the subsidy granted by the United States Government, it is however insufficient to warrant the abandonment by Turkey of the subsidy policy which she has just adopted.