

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

RESTRICTED

TARIFFS AND TRADE

L/6315

11 March 1988

Limited Distribution

Original: English

JAPAN - IMPORTS OF SPRUCE-PINE-FIR (SPF) DIMENSION LUMBER

Recourse to Article XXIII:2 by Canada

Communication from Canada

The following communication, dated 9 March 1988, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Canada.

The Government of Canada wishes to refer to the contracting parties, in pursuance of Article XXIII:2 of the General Agreement, the application of a tariff of eight per cent on imports of spruce-pine-fir (SPF) dimension lumber by the Government of Japan.

The Government of Canada considers that the eight per cent tariff applied to imports of SPF dimension lumber (tariff number 4407.10.110) is not in conformity with the provision of Article I:1 of the General Agreement concerning the equal treatment of like products. It is Canada's view that dimension lumber made from SPF and dimension lumber made from other species of wood are like products under the meaning of Article I:1. The latter enter Japan with zero duty.

The Government of Canada further considers that the higher tariff applied to SPF dimension lumber acts to nullify and impair benefits accruing to Canada under the General Agreement.

This tariff has been the subject of two rounds of consultations with the Government of Japan under Article XXIII:1. These consultations have not led to a satisfactory resolution of the matter.

Accordingly, Canada hereby requests that the Council, at the 22 March GATT Council meeting, establish a panel to examine the matter and to make such findings and recommendations as may be appropriate.