

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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FRENCH TAX ON IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Note by the United States Delegation

The United States Delegation wishes to call the attention of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to a matter which it believes may justify consideration by the Ad Hoc Committee between the Seventh and Eighth Session.

Under the item "Other Business", the United States Delegation during the current session raised the question of the consistency with the provisions of the General Agreement of a tax by France on all imports and exports. This tax, which amounts to 0.4 per cent of the value of imports and exports, is designed to develop a fund for providing social security benefits to farmers. The United States Government is of the view that the tax nullifies and impairs the concessions made by France under the General Agreement. The United States Government, acting in accordance with the provisions of Article XXIII, has raised the matter formally with the French Government and is awaiting its reply to these representations.