

COUNCIL
20 July 1988

Original: English

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY - RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF APPLES

Recourse to Article XXIII:2 by the United States

The following communication addressed to the Council Chairman, dated 7 July 1988, has been received from the Office of the United States Trade Representative.

The United States wishes to refer to the CONTRACTING PARTIES, pursuant to Article XXIII:2 of the General Agreement, the matter of the quantitative restrictions imposed by the European Economic Community on the import of apples.

By Regulation (EEC) No. 1040 of 20 April 1988, the Commission of the European Communities adopted quantitative restrictions on imports of dessert apples. As of 20 April 1988, no more licences will be issued for the importation of apples from the United States into the EC, until 31 August 1988.

The United States believes that these restrictions contravene, inter alia, the prohibition in Article XI of the General Agreement against maintenance of quantitative restrictions on imports made effective through quotas, import licences, or other means. These restrictions nullify and impair benefits accruing to the United States under the General Agreement, including tariff concessions on apples.

These restrictions have been the subject of discussions and consultations, including consultations held under Article XXIII:1 of the General Agreement on 8 June 1988. These consultations have not resulted in a mutually satisfactory settlement of this issue.

Therefore, the United States requests the Council of Representatives at its meeting of 20 July 1988 to establish a panel to review this matter under Article XXIII:2 of the General Agreement.