

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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## CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND ITALY CONCERNING THE ITALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

### Statement by the Delegation of Japan<sup>1</sup>

1. At their sixteenth session the CONTRACTING PARTIES made arrangements for consultations to be held under Article XXII:1 between Italy and other contracting parties on the import restrictions of Italy. A consultation within this framework was requested by Japan. On 9 September 1960, the Italian Government supplied the Japanese Government with a negative list containing about 520 items of restricted imports from Japan, suggesting that it be taken as a basis for the consultation. Following a preliminary discussion the Italian Government produced, on 25 October, a shortened list, containing some 400 items. A consultation was started in Rome on 28 November.
2. At the outset of the consultation, the Japanese representatives defined the position of the Japanese Government, stating that the Italian Government should accord to imports from Japan treatment in conformity with the GATT principle of non-discrimination - at least, treatment similar to that accorded to imports from the "dollar area", but that, when the negative list of 25 October had been further reduced so as to include only items the import of which was likely to cause serious injury to the relevant Italian industries, the Japanese Government would be prepared to take a flexible attitude and co-operate with the Italian Government in working out practical solutions, which should be consistent with the principle of non-discrimination. The Japanese representatives then requested the Italian representatives to remove from the negative list all items the import of which would not be likely to cause injury to the relevant Italian industries, pointing out that the burden of proving that any item was sensitive and should therefore be included in the negative list should rest with the Italian Government.
3. The Italian representatives stated that the items included in the negative list of 25 October should be divided into the following three groups:
  - Group I: the imports which could be liberalized immediately;
  - Group II: the imports which could be liberalized in the near future;
  - Group III: the imports which could not be liberalized for the time being.

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<sup>1</sup> This statement has been transmitted by the Japanese delegation for circulation to the contracting parties for their information.

