

EB/CGATT/53/2

March 23, 1953

TO: Members of the Committee on Liaison with the Contracting
Parties to the GATT

FROM: The Secretary

SUBJECT: Greece's Exchange Taxes on Imports

For the information of the members of the Committee, the
Chairman has received the attached memorandum from the Director of the
Exchange Restrictions Department.

Att: (1)

Other Distribution:
Members of the Executive Board
Department Heads
Division Chiefs

AS
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Legal Department
Central Files

March 18, 1953

To: Chairman of the Committee on Liaison with the CONTRACTING PARTIES
to the GATT

From: Director, Exchange Restrictions Department

Subject: Greece's Exchange Taxes on Imports

In connection with the staff paper entitled "Greece's Exchange Taxes on Imports and Export Subsidies" which has been circulated to the Executive Board as SM/53/18, it is noted that certain related questions have also been raised with the Fund by the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The way in which the matter arose before the CONTRACTING PARTIES is dealt with in the Report of the Fund Mission to the Seventh Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES (EBD/53/8) and the GATT enquiry respecting it is contained in a letter of December 10, 1952 from Mr. Wyndham White which has been circulated as EBD/53/7.

Briefly, the origin of the matter before the CONTRACTING PARTIES was that, in the course of the Seventh Session, a complaint was lodged that the Greek taxes on imports are contrary to the provisions of the General Agreement. The CONTRACTING PARTIES decided that the information at their disposal as to the nature of the taxes and the method of their application was insufficient to enable them to reach a conclusion on the complaint before them. In the letter of December 10, 1952, the Fund has been asked whether the Greek taxes, imposed (on October 8, 1952) under a decree of October 7, 1952, constitute a multiple currency practice and whether the taxes are in conformity with the Fund's Articles of Agreement.

The matter of the GATT enquiry will be raised again with the Committee as soon as the Executive Board has taken action on the outstanding exchange problem dealt with in SM/53/18.