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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Ad hoc Working Party on International  
Road Transport Contract

(First session)

SET OF RULES - CONSIGNMENT NOTE

Communication from the Government of France

Addendum 1

At the Working Party of Customs Experts' fourth session the Secretariat received from the French representative the following communication relating to the transitional clause mentioned in paragraph 2 of document TRANS/WP9/27.

16 February 1955

GATT has studied the application of transitional clauses on two occasions.

Article XIII, paragraph 3(b) of the Agreement envisages the fixing of import quotas and lays down that "any supplies of these products (under quota arrangements) which were en route at the time at which public notice was given shall not be excluded from entry".

In the second place, a recommendation of 7 November 1952 which is quoted below, relates to the treatment applicable to existing contracts where quantitative restrictions are instituted or reinforced:

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"THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

RECOMMEND to governments imposing or intensifying import or export restrictions that they should authorize, to the fullest extent permitted by the exigencies of their economic and financial position, the importation or exportation of goods covered by firm and legitimate contracts which are proved to their satisfaction to have been concluded in the course of normal business before the announcement of new or intensified import or export restrictions. Governments should give prompt consideration to all individual cases; special consideration should be given to transactions involving perishable or seasonal commodities".

(GATT - G/39 of 23.12.1952)