

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to present a variety of available statistical information which may be pertinent to considerations of foreign economic policy.

Part I of the report presents comparisons of restraints on trade and capital investment presently imposed by the countries of the industrialized West, plus Australia, New Zealand, and Japan.

Section A of part I presents comparisons of the tariff rates of these countries. Section B deals in a similar way with quotas and other quantitative restrictions imposed on imports of commodities into these countries. Finally, section C gives an account of the restrictions prevailing in these countries on capital investment by foreigners, as well as such restrictions on the repatriation of capital and earnings. The information for all three sections is taken from reports of 1960 and early 1961 and thus affords a reasonably current overall view of restraints to trade and capital investment prevailing in the countries of the industrialized West, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan.

In the case of the restraints on international trade—tariffs and quantity restrictions—the tables presented cover 45 broad commodity groups. These commodity groups are thought to represent no less than 75 percent of the international trade of any country among those for which the comparisons are made. For most of the individual countries, and for these countries as a group, the 45 commodity groups embrace much more than 75 percent of international trade.

Section B, which deals with quantitative restrictions on trade, omits such restrictions on agricultural commodities. Because of the complexity of controls presently in effect on agricultural commodities, it has not been practicable to obtain reliable and comparable information. Section B does set out, however, a brief table showing which countries provide export subsidies for agricultural commodities, and for which commodities.

Section C gives a country-by-country account of present or recent restraints on both the investment of foreign capital and the repatriation of profits and capital. Similarly, where governments offer special incentives to the investment of foreign capital, these are described also.

Part II presents a compilation of selected statistical tables dealing with the volume of international trade, foreign investment, wage and productivity rates, and similar subjects, which may be useful to considerations of foreign economic policies.