PART I. TRADE RESTRAINTS IN THE WESTERN COMMUNITY

SECTION A. TARIFFS OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS OF THE WEST, PLUS AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND JAPAN

The difficulty normally encountered in making comparisons of tariffs as between countries is that tariff rates are separately prescribed for a great number of different individual commodities. For example, the tariff schedule for the United States contains more than 5,000 different commodity classifications. In an attempt to reduce this tremendous volume of data to groups whereby generalized comparisons can be made, certain weighted averages have been computed for the tariff schedules of the several countries for which comparisons are made.

To illustrate, the broad category of "office machinery" includes many individual products such as typewriters, cash registers, accounting machines, calculating machines, and dictating machines. Each of these items may be dutiable at a different rate. Thus, in order to arrive at an approximate average rate for the entire group, it was necessary to obtain the value of trade in each of the specific items, then arrive at a weighted average for the group.

In some instances, however, available trade statistics are not in precisly the same classifications, or nomenclature, as the pertinent tariff schedules. Accordingly, in these instances estimates have been made in an attempt to achieve comparability. For this reason, the weighted averages suffer from some imprecision; but it is believed that this is not significant for the purposes for which the data are used in this report. Similarly, while most duties are expressed in terms of a specified percentage of the value of the commodity in question, some duties are in terms of a specific levy per pound or per some other physical measure. For the purposes of this report, such duties have been converted to value equivalents, for purposes of comparison, based upon latest available price data.

The tables to follow illustrate present levels of discrimination maintained against nonmember countries by member countries of the European Free Trade Association, the European Economic Community, and the British Commonwealth. In addition, in the case of the European Economic Community, the tables show levels of discrimination which are expected to prevail against countries outside the EEC, when the common external tariffs of the EEC become effective. To illustrate, the present French tariff on American road motor vehicles is 8 percent higher than the French tariff on similar vehicles produced in member countries of the EEC; and when the common tariff of the EEC becomes effective, as presently planned, American made motor vehicles exported to France will be subject to a 27-percent tariff while similar vehicles manufactured in the Common Market countries will be free of any tariff. The tables to follow are more precisely explained in the notes below.

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