

ported into the United Kingdom if the embargo on imports were removed. However, any reliable estimate of the trade-restrictive effect of the Canadian antidumping law is impossible. Like similar measures that apply to all or most imports, its restrictive effect cannot be estimated by commodity specialists—not because of the range of commodities involved, but because the principal restrictive effect of such a nontariff barrier is its uncertainty and consequent discouragement of imports.

The importance of this element of uncertainty, inherent in most nontariff barriers, should not be underestimated. In fact, it is the most restrictive aspect of some nontariff measures. Traders must know where they stand if goods are to be exchanged. Unlike tariffs, the effects of nontariff measures on importers' and exporters' sales and profits may not be calculable. Because of such open-ended risks, the effort necessary to develop a foreign market may never be made.

Another source of misunderstanding about nontariff barriers is a fundamental difference between U.S. and other countries' restrictions that make the latter much more difficult to evaluate. In general, U.S. restrictions are specifically stated in legislation and in detailed regulations, and officials are given relatively little discretion in their administration. In most other countries, legislation tends to be less specific, and administrative regulations, if any, may be very general, making it much more difficult to identify nontariff restrictions and to evaluate their effects. Such nontariff measures are not, thereby, less restrictive; indeed, their lack of specificity may increase their trade-inhibiting effect.

This difference between U.S. and other countries' nontariff restrictions has resulted in much more attention being given to the former. Because it is easier to identify and to cite U.S. nontariff restrictions, most publications tend to emphasize them and unavoidably to give the impression that they are more important than those of other countries.⁷ This is true in some instances but is not a valid generalization. In this connection, it may be noted that the EEC and EFTA are dealing

⁷ Several publications deal specifically with U.S. nontariff barriers. See, for example, Craig Mathews, "Non-Tariff Import Restrictions: Remedies Available in United States Law," *Michigan Law Review*, Vol. 62, No. 8 (June, 1964), pp. 1295-1356; and Noel Hemmendinger,