

other purposes. Consequently, the few remaining restrictions that can no longer be justified on balance-of-payments grounds are illegal and should be dealt with under appropriate GATT provisions.

However, irrespective of their legal status, quantitative and other nontariff restrictions on coal could not, realistically, be handled in the same way. Restrictions on coal are similar in nature to those on agricultural products, because they reflect deep-rooted economic and social problems affecting politically important segments of the population. In all countries maintaining nontariff restrictions, efforts are being made to solve these problems, which are becoming smaller as the number of mines and miners declines.

The problem of coal restrictions is further complicated by its relationship to competing fuels and sources of energy. Domestic coal not only competes with imported coal but with petroleum, natural gas, hydroelectric power, and nuclear energy. One of the objectives of the Common Market is to develop a common energy policy that would allocate Community energy requirements among competing energy sources and between domestic and foreign suppliers. Such a policy has been under consideration since 1957, but it is unlikely to develop before the merger of the three communities.⁹² In varying degrees other industrial countries have energy policies that determine or influence the tariff and nontariff restrictions on coal and competing energy sources.⁹³ Consequently, restrictions on coal can probably be handled effectively only within the context of countries' energy policies in which the comparative economic and social costs of alternative imported and domestic energy sources are considered. Any removal of coal restrictions would have to be undertaken gradually so as to provide an opportunity for adjustments, particularly on the part of affected miners.

⁹² The European Coal and Steel Community is responsible for coal; the EEC for petroleum, gas, and hydroelectric power; and the European Atomic Energy Community for nuclear energy. For a discussion of developments in the Communities' common energy policy, see European Coal and Steel Community, 13th General Report, March, 1965, pp. 74-92.

⁹³ See, for example, the United Kingdom White Paper on *Fuel Policy*, published by the Ministry of Power, October 21, 1965 (Command 2798). This paper outlines energy policy for the next five to ten years.