

obligation that the applicant contracting party has assumed under Article II, or which would tend to nullify or impair the benefit to any other contracting party or parties of any such obligation, the CONTRACTING PARTIES shall sponsor and assist in negotiations between the applicant contracting party and the other contracting party or parties which would be substantially affected with a view to obtaining substantial agreement. The CONTRACTING PARTIES shall establish and communicate to the contracting parties concerned a time schedule for such negotiations.

(b) Contracting parties shall commence the negotiations provided for in subparagraph (a) of this paragraph within such period as the CONTRACTING PARTIES may prescribe and shall thereafter, unless the CONTRACTING PARTIES decide otherwise, proceed continuously with such negotiations with a view to reaching substantial agreement in accordance with the time schedule laid down by the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

(c) Upon substantial agreement being reached, the CONTRACTING PARTIES may release the applicant contracting party from the obligation referred to in subparagraph (a) of this paragraph or from any other relevant obligation under his agreement, subject to such limitations as may have been agreed upon in the negotiations between the contracting parties concerned.

4. (a) If, as a result of their examination pursuant to paragraph 2 (c) of this Article, the CONTRACTING PARTIES concur in any proposed measure, with or without modification, other than a measure referred to in paragraph 3 (a) of this Article, which would be inconsistent with any provision of this Agreement, the CONTRACTING PARTIES may release the applicant contracting party from any obligation under such provision, subject to such limitations as they may impose.

(b) If, having regard to the provisions of paragraph 2 (c) of this Article, it is established in the course of such examination that such measure is unlikely to be more restrictive of international trade than any other practicable and reasonable measure permitted under this Agreement which could be imposed without undue difficulty and that it is the one most suitable for the purpose having regard to the economics of the industry or the branch of agriculture concerned and to the current economic condition of the applicant contracting party, the CONTRACTING PARTIES shall concur in such measure and grant such release as may be required to enable such measure to be made effective.

(c) If in anticipation of the concurrence of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in the adoption of a measure concerning which notice has been given under paragraph 2 of this Article, other than a measure referred to in paragraph 3 (a) of this Article, there should be an increase or threatened increase in the importations of the product or products concerned, including products which can be directly substituted therefor, so substantial as to jeopardize the plans of the applicant contracting party for the establishment, development, or reconstruction of the industry or industries or branches of agriculture concerned, and if no preventive measures consistent with