

SECTION B.—QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS AND RELATED EXCHANGE
MATTERS

Article 20

General Elimination of Quantitative Restrictions

1. No prohibitions or restrictions other than duties, taxes or other charges, whether made effective through quotas, import or export licences or other measures, shall be instituted or maintained by any Member on the importation of any product of any other Member country or on the exportation or sale for export of any product destined for any other Member country.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not extend to the following :

- (a) Export prohibitions or restrictions applied for the period necessary to prevent or relieve critical shortages of foodstuffs or other products essential to the exporting Member country ;
- (b) Import and export prohibitions or restrictions necessary to the applications of standards or regulations for the classification, grading or marketing of commodities in international trade ; if, in the opinion of the Organization, the standards or regulations adopted by a Member under this subparagraph have an unduly restrictive effect on trade, the Organization may request the Member to revise the standards or regulations ; *Provided* that it shall not request the revision of standards internationally agreed pursuant to recommendations made under paragraph 7 of Article 39 ;
- (c) Import restrictions on any agricultural or fisheries product, imported in any form, necessary to the enforcement of governmental measures which operate effectively ;
 - (i) To restrict the quantities of the like domestic product permitted to be marketed or produced, or, if there is no substantial domestic production of the like product, of a domestic agricultural or fisheries product for which the imported product can be directly substituted ; or
 - (ii) To remove a temporary surplus of the like domestic product, or, if there is no substantial domestic production of the like product, of a domestic agricultural or fisheries product for which the imported product can be directly substituted, by making the surplus available to certain groups of domestic consumers free of charge or at prices below the current market level ; or
 - (iii) To restrict the quantities permitted to be produced of any animal product the production of which is directly dependent, wholly or mainly, on the imported commodity, if the domestic production of that commodity is relatively negligible.