

SECTION F.—SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Article 40

Emergency Action on Imports of Particular Products

1. (a) If, as a result of unforeseen developments and of the effect of the obligations incurred by a Member under or pursuant to this Chapter, including tariff concessions, any product is being imported into the territory of that Member in such relatively increased quantities and under such conditions as to cause or threaten serious injury to domestic producers in that territory of like or directly competitive products, the Member shall be free, in respect of such product, and to the extent and for such time as may be necessary to prevent or remedy such injury, to suspend the obligation in whole or in part or to withdraw or modify the concession.

(b) If any product which is the subject of a concession with respect to a preference is being imported into the territory of a Member in the circumstances set forth in subparagraph (a), so as to cause or threaten serious injury to domestic producers of like or directly competitive products in the territory of a Member which receives or received such preference, the importing Member shall be free, if that other Member so requests, to suspend the relevant obligation in whole or in part or to withdraw or modify the concession in respect of the product, to the extent and for such time as may be necessary to prevent or remedy such injury.

2. Before any Member shall take action pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 1, it shall give notice in writing to the Organization as far in advance as may be practicable and shall afford the Organization and those Members having a substantial interest as exporters of the product concerned an opportunity to consult with it in respect of the proposed action. When such notice is given in regard to a concession relating to a preference, the notice shall name the Member which has requested the action. In circumstances of special urgency, where delay would cause damage which it would be difficult to repair, action under paragraph 1 may be taken provisionally without prior consultation, on the condition that consultation shall be effected immediately after taking such action.

3. (a) If agreement among the interested Members with respect to the action is not reached, the Member which proposed to take or continue the action shall, nevertheless, be free to do so, and if such action is taken or continued, the affected Members shall then be free, not later than ninety days after such action is taken to suspend, upon the expiration of thirty days from the day on which written notice of such suspension is received by the Organization, the application to the trade of the Member taking such action, or, in the case envisaged in paragraph 1 (b), to the trade of the Member requesting such action, of such substantially equivalent obligations or concessions under or pursuant to this Chapter the suspension of which the Organization does not disapprove.