

ARTICLE XIX

Disputes and Complaints

1. Any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement which is not settled by negotiation and any complaint that any exporting or importing country has failed to fulfill its obligations under this Agreement, shall, at the request of any exporting or importing country party to the dispute or making the complaint, be referred to the Council which shall make a decision on the matter.

2. No exporting or importing country shall be found to have committed a breach of this Agreement except by a majority of the votes held by the exporting countries and a majority of the votes held by the importing countries. Any finding that an exporting or importing country is in breach of this Agreement shall specify the nature of the breach and, if the breach involves default by that country in its guaranteed quantities, the extent of such default.

3. If the Council finds that an exporting country or an importing country has committed a breach of this Agreement, it may, by a majority of the votes held by the exporting countries and a majority of the votes held by the importing countries, deprive the country concerned of its voting rights until it fulfills its obligations or expel that country from the Agreement.

4. If any exporting or importing country is deprived of its votes under this Article, the votes shall be redistributed as provided in paragraph 14 of Article XIII. If any exporting or importing country is found in default of the whole or part of its guaranteed quantities or is expelled from this Agreement, the remaining guaranteed quantities shall be adjusted as provided in Article IX.

PART 5—FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE XX

Signature, Acceptance, and Entry into Force

1. This Agreement shall be open for signature in Washington until April 15, 1949, by the Governments of the countries listed in Annex A and Annex B to Article III.

2. This Agreement shall be subject to acceptance by signatory Governments in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 4 of this Article, instruments of acceptance shall be deposited with the Government of the United States of America not later than July 1, 1949.

3. Provided that the Governments of countries listed in Annex A to Article III responsible for not less than seventy per cent. of the guaranteed purchases and the Governments of countries listed in Annex B to Article III responsible for not less than eighty per cent.