

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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CUBAN LUMBER TAX

Report by the United States Government

The following communication under date of 11 February 1953 has been received from the Government of the United States:

"At the Seventh Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, a note by the United States Delegation (L/63, 7 November 1952) called attention to a matter which it believed might justify consideration by the Ad Hoc Committee between the Seventh and Eighth Sessions.

"This matter concerned a tax of 9 percent established by the Government of Cuba on sales of lumber. In practice the tax was imposed on imports but not on domestic lumber. The United States Government took the position that this discrimination was contrary to the provisions of Article III of the General Agreement and made a number of representations to the Cuban Government. In calling the attention of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to this matter in L/63, the United States Delegation expressed the hope that the latest representation to the Cuban Government would produce results which would make it unnecessary for the CONTRACTING PARTIES to have to consider the case

"Since by Law-Decree 527, effective November 17, 1952, the Government of Cuba has terminated the exemption of domestic lumber from the application of the gross sales tax, the United States withdraws this matter of the exemption as one no longer requiring consideration by the CONTRACTING PARTIES."