

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

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UNITED STATES - IMPOSITION OF IMPORT DUTIES ON
AUTOMOBILES FROM JAPAN
UNDER SECTIONS 301 AND 304 OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974

Request to Join Consultations under Article 4.11 of the DSU

Communication by Australia

The following communication, dated 1 June 1995, from the Permanent Mission of Australia to the Permanent Mission of Japan and the United States Trade Representative, is circulated at the request of the Permanent Mission of Australia.

Pursuant to paragraph 11 of Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU), the Government of Australia hereby notifies you that due to its substantial trade interest, it desires to be joined in the consultations under Article XXII:1 of GATT 1994 requested by Japan in a communication circulated to WTO members on 22 May 1995 (WT/DS6/1), entitled "United States - Imposition of Import Duties on Automobiles from Japan Under Sections 301 and 304 of the Trade Act of 1974".

This notification of Australia's wish to be joined in the consultations is without prejudice to Australia's views on the legal basis for the WTO claims of either party.

Australia has a substantial trade interest in relation to the products included in the U.S. Section 301 list. In the immediate and longer term, Australia has a substantial trade interest in relation to those auto parts of Australian origin which are sold to Japanese auto makers. Australia also has a substantial interest in relation to the proportion of our exports of coal, steel, iron ore and other minerals which are used in Japanese auto manufacture.

Japan is a leading market for Australia's exports of all such products. Australia also exports leather and other components to the Japanese auto industry.

Finally, Australia also has a substantial interest in the observance of the rules on the strengthening of the multilateral system in Article 23 of the DSU, which were invoked in Japan's request for consultations.