

amendment shall become effective upon its acceptance by (a) importing countries which hold a simple majority of the votes of the importing countries, including the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and (b) the Governments of Australia, Canada, and the United States of America.

5. Any contracting Government which has not notified the Council of its acceptance of the amendment by the date on which it becomes effective may, after giving such notice as the Council may require in each case, withdraw from this Agreement at the end of the current crop-year, but shall not thereby be released from any obligations under this Agreement not discharged by the end of that crop-year.

6. Any contracting Government which considers its national security endangered by the outbreak of hostilities may withdraw from this Agreement upon the expiry of thirty days' written notice to the Council. In the event of such a withdrawal, the Council may recommend an amendment of this Agreement in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of this Article.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned duly authorized representatives of the respective Governments have signed this Agreement on the dates appearing opposite their signatures.

Opened for signature in Washington, on March 6, 1948, in the English and French languages, each of which shall be authentic.

(Here follow the names of the signatories.)

ARTICLE XVI

ARTICLE XVII

Provisions Relating to Amendments

1. The present Agreement remains in vigor until July 31, 1953.
2. The Council advises the contracting Governments, and may, if it deems it appropriate, recommend amendments to the present Agreement.
3. If, at any moment, the Council receives proposals for amendments to the present Agreement, it may, at its discretion, recommend such amendments to the contracting Governments.
4. The Council may, if it deems it appropriate, recommend amendments to the present Agreement.