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27th September, 1960.COCOM Document 3715.87/2COORDINATING COMMITTEERECORD OF DISCUSSIONONUNITED KINGDOM MEMORANDUM ON INTERPRETATION OF ITEM 1587QUARTZ CRYSTALS19th September, 1960

Present: Belgium(Luxembourg), Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Reference: COCOM Document 3715.87/1.

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the Committee's attention to a United Kingdom Memorandum concerning the interpretation of Item 1587, and invited delegates to give views on the problem raised therein.
2. The GERMAN Delegate stated that his authorities had studied the matter with particular interest. They wondered how the question had come to the notice of the United Kingdom licensing authorities since only radio grade quartz crystals were under embargo, and licence applications would not normally be submitted for any other grade of quartz crystal. There was thus no practical possibility of checking on an item which was not subject to export licensing. Under the present status it was the responsibility of exporters to assure that quartzes were shipped only when the end-use (optical) was known. The German authorities agreed, however, that the present status of Item 1587 was not satisfactory and would be prepared during the Forthcoming List Review, to study sympathetically any proposals to improve it.
3. The FRENCH Delegate stated that quartz crystals were divided into three classes in France - radio, optical and ornamental. Radio grade quartz were marked "R" which meant that a licence application must be submitted. As far as optical grade quartz crystals were concerned, they could be exported to the Soviet Bloc, but bore the mention "authorised for optical quartz only". Any possibility of fraud could thus be avoided.
4. The UNITED STATES Delegate stated that his authorities considered optical grade quartz to be embargoed under Item 1587, and were thus in agreement with the United Kingdom interpretation. The relevant embargo description contained in the United States Positive List followed by the letter A was as follows: "Quartz crystals (natural and synthetic) unprocessed, of optical quality".
5. The NETHERLANDS Delegate stated that his Government believed that according to the spirit of the International Lists optical grade quartz was covered. The situation was far from clear, however, and the Delegate suggested that the United Kingdom Delegation might submit a concrete proposal for discussion during the List Review.
6. The BELGIAN Delegate stated that his authorities had no problem with optical grade quartz. As the United Kingdom Delegation had stated quartz of superior optical grade was suitable for radio purposes, and it was extremely difficult to establish a difference between the two grades. The Belgian authorities believed that licences should be granted for quartz crystals of superior optical grade, if it could be proved that they would not be used for radio purposes. They considered this view to be in keeping with Item 1587 which stipulated "radio grade only" and thus implicitly allowed the export of other grades.

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7. The ITALIAN Delegate stated that his authorities had themselves encountered no concrete instances, but felt that the problem should be thoroughly reviewed in order to avoid misunderstanding.

8. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegate thanked his colleagues for the useful exchange of views which had just taken place and took note of the request for a concrete redefinition proposed.

9. The COMMITTEE agreed to rediscuss Item 1587 during the forthcoming List Review.

C O N F I D E N T I A L