

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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DEVELOPMENTS RELEVANT TO THE OPERATION OF PART IV

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

The following notification has been received from the Government of New Zealand in reply to GATT/AIR/750.

1. Since New Zealand's last report there have been no reductions in customs duties on products of export interest to developing countries apart from the programmed reduction to implement New Zealand's Kennedy Round concessions. New Zealand has, however, been co-operating with OECD to co-ordinate an approach to the proposed UNCTAD Generalized Preferences Scheme and has prepared an offer in this context which envisages substantial duty reductions on a wide range of imports from developing countries on a non-reciprocal basis.
2. Fiscal duties and internal charges are not widely applied on commodities of export interest to developing countries. No new duties or charges of this nature have been imposed in the past year.
3. New Zealand maintains import licensing for balance-of-payments reasons but it is the Government's policy progressively to dismantle the import licensing system as circumstances permit. In pursuance of this policy about 60 per cent by value of New Zealand's imports are now exempt from licensing and it is expected that, with the implementation of further exemptions on 1 July 1970, more than 65 per cent of imports will be exempt. Items of interest to developing countries have been exempted in accordance with this policy.
4. No other non-tariff measures are invoked against imports from developing countries.
5. There have been no increases in duties, fiscal charges, quantitative restrictions or other trade barriers affecting the exports of developing countries.
6. There is limited opportunity for the Government to maintain trade margins at "equitable" levels since very few commodities are subject to official price control.
7. New Zealand fully supports the work of the UNCTAD/GATT International Trade Centre and has continued to supply information to the Centre as required to assist the promotion of exports of developing countries. During 1969 New Zealand sponsored its fourth trade promotion course for trainees from developing countries. Hitherto two trainees each year have been accepted for the course and the number of places was this year increased to five.

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General

8. In the 1968-69 trading year imports from developing countries reached \$90 million compared with \$77 million in the previous year.
9. In line with its policy of co-operating in international measures to assist in alleviating commodity trade problems of the developing countries New Zealand has become a party to both the International Sugar Agreement 1968 and the International Coffee Agreement.