

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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24 April 1961

Limited Distribution

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NEW ZEALAND IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

Modification of Restrictions

1. The following communication, dated 14 April 1961, has been received from the New Zealand authorities:

"In accordance with the procedures approved on 16 November 1960 (BISD Ninth Supplement, page 18), I have to inform you as follows:

Due to current balance-of-payments difficulties the New Zealand Government has suspended from 13 April 1961 the "R" (replacement import licence) scheme under which provision was made in respect of 203 items in the current import licensing schedule for allocations up to a maximum entitlement representing 150 per cent of the value of 1960 imports, and for limited allocations to new importers. Items which were previously "R" items are to be treated as follows:

- (1) No further licences will be issued for eighty-five items covering, in the main, consumer goods of a less-essential nature.
- (2) The balance of the items will be treated as "C" items and allocations will be made only on the basis of individual consideration. The provision for new importers entitlements is withdrawn. Provision is made for licences to be issued to cover firm orders placed and accepted prior to 13 April for requirements consistent with the importers normal course of trading and pattern of ordering.

"It is suggested that if this matter is to be considered by the Council it could be at the meeting commencing on 8 May, as any earlier date would present serious difficulties for New Zealand."

2. In accordance with paragraph 3 of the Procedures approved on 16 November 1960 the Council should be convened normally with a maximum delay of ten days to consider a matter of this nature. In view of the difficulties referred to above by the New Zealand authorities, it is suggested that, unless any contracting party should propose otherwise, the matter be taken up by the Council at its next meeting which begins on 8 May.