

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/1515

30 June 1961

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NEW ZEALAND-IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

Further Modifications and Date of Consultation

1. The following communication, dated 23 June 1961, has been received from the New Zealand delegation:

"You will recall that at the eighteenth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES the New Zealand delegation stated that further measures of intensification of balance-of-payments import restrictions were being considered by the New Zealand Government.

"Under these circumstances the consultations which had been scheduled to consider the intensification measures notified on 14 April, were deferred until details of the forecasted further measures were announced.

"Such an announcement has now been made and the text of a message from Wellington is attached hereto." (See Annex.)

"You will see that the measure announced is essentially the extension of the current import licensing period by six months (from the normal expiry date of 31 December 1961 to 30 June 1962). Some supplementary provision is made for the period 1 January to 30 June 1962, but mainly for industrial raw materials, components and spare parts, some essential basic foodstuffs and a few essential consumer items. The "A" category (licences to value applied for) is withdrawn, but existing exemptions remain.

"I have no further information at present but no doubt I shall be able to let you have greater details shortly."

2. At the Council meeting in May and at the eighteenth session it was agreed that a consultation should be held with New Zealand under Article XII:4(a) with respect to the measures notified on 14 April (L/1447) and certain additional measures which had been decided upon, but as yet unannounced. It was agreed that the date of the consultation should be left open until these further measures had been officially announced.

3. These additional measures, as indicated in paragraph 1 above, were announced on 22 June. The New Zealand delegation has now requested that this consultation be deferred until the meeting of the Balance-of-Payments Committee which has been scheduled for 30 October or, if this is not acceptable, until the meeting of the Council in late September.

ANNEX

Message from Wellington on Nature and Scope of the
New Measures Announced on 22 June 1961

1. The Minister of Customs, Hon. J. R. Marshall, announced yesterday that the 1961 import licensing period is extended to end on 30 June 1962 instead of 31 December 1961.
2. In the evening papers of Thursday 22 June the Minister will announce the release of a supplementary import licensing schedule giving details of provision made for imports during the period 1 January 1962 to 30 June 1962. Licences under basic allocation items in the supplementary schedule will not be issued before 1 August next. All licences under the supplementary schedule will not be available for imports before 1 January 1962.
3. The supplementary schedule contains 547 "D" items for which no provision is made except in exceptional circumstances, 288 "C" items, 132 "C" items with initial basic allocations and 133 basic allocation items. There is no change in present exempt items. "A" allocation is withdrawn from previously published 1961 schedule.
4. Items for which additional provision is made are largely raw materials and components for industry, spare parts, essential basic foodstuffs and a few essential consumer items. In the main no additional provision is made for consumer goods.
5. Having regard to the present satisfactory stock position the relatively generous provision for imports under the current 1961 schedule and the fact that these licences may now be utilized through to 30 June 1962, the supplementary allocations to be announced should provide sufficient additional essential import requirements to cover the extended period. The Minister is also requesting the co-operation of importers in spreading existing stocks and imports under current licence as much as possible into 1962. The measures being taken should assist materially in overcoming present balance-of-payments difficulties.

