

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/2969/Add.4

13 September 1968

Limited Distribution

Original: English

SOUTH AFRICAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

Addendum

The Government of South Africa has submitted for the information of contracting parties the following text of a press release of 1 August 1968 by the Minister of Economic Affairs concerning a further selective relaxation of import control which had been decided upon in conjunction with a relaxation of exchange control which had just been announced.

Mr. Haak (the Minister) said that a further general relaxation of import control on a global basis would not at this stage have the desired effect, as it has come to his notice that numerous importers were unable to make full use of the permit allocations received by them, in accordance with existing policy and arrangements, for their 1968 importations.

The granting of additional import facilities to these importers would not, therefore, make any notable contribution towards easing the domestic liquidity problems.

For this reason he had decided to confine the further relaxations of import control to specific commodities and to authorize further import allocations on a selective basis in respect of only capital goods and consumer goods. Import facilities for raw materials are already granted freely.

As far as capital goods are concerned, Mr. Haak stated that the existing policy and arrangements to grant additional import facilities for the purpose of replacement and increased productivity would be maintained.

Mr. Haak added, however, that he had also decided to relax import control somewhat further with a view to development in certain desirable directions but with due regard to existing domestic production.

The Minister said that when granting additional import facilities cognisance will inter alia, also be taken of turnovers of the importers concerned as well as their ability to make full use of such further allocations.

Importers of capital goods as well as consumer goods who feel that, in the light of the above considerations, they are able to make use of additional import concessions, may apply for such allocations in writing to the Director of Imports and Exports.

