

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON  
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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IMPORT RESTRICTIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
SOUTH AFRICA<sup>1</sup>

Addendum

The following communication has been received from the Permanent Representative of South Africa.

I have the honour to refer to paragraph 9 of document C/M/81 of 1 November 1972, and enclose copies of a press statement of 7 March 1973, wherein the Minister of Economic Affairs announced further substantial relaxations of South Africa's import control.

A Government Notice giving full details of the import relaxations will be published shortly and copies will be forwarded to you as soon as they are received.

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<sup>1</sup>Details of South Africa's import control regulations for 1973 have previously been circulated in document L/3786. See also documents L/3730 and Add.1 and L/3739 for information regarding South Africa's disinvocation of Article XII, and products falling within different licensing categories in South Africa.

PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED BY MR. S.L. MULLER, MINISTER OF  
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

1. The Minister of Economic Affairs announced today that he had decided to introduce the following further substantial relaxations of import control:

- (i) the addition of 120 items to the list of goods which may be imported without a permit and which appear in paragraph 1 of Government Notice No. R.1989 of 3 November 1972;
- (ii) the relaxation of control in respect of the commodity groups at present appearing in sub-paragraphs (i), (ii), (iii) and (v) of paragraph 3 of the above-mentioned Government Notice by transferring them to paragraph 2. The goods appearing in paragraph 3 are subject to quota control whereas, in respect of the commodity groups appearing in paragraph 2, permits are issued to meet the full reasonable requirements of importers;
- (iii) the deletion of twenty-seven commodity groups from paragraph 4 which embodies those commodities that may be imported only if the importer is in possession of a valid import permit in which such goods are specifically described.

2. The Minister emphasised that these relaxations of import control will not detract in any way from the Government's undertaking to domestic manufacturers that they would be granted adequate protection if they could submit deserving cases to the Government.

3. Mr. Muller added that a Government Notice giving full details of the import relaxations announced by him would soon be published in the Government Gazette.

4. The Minister also announced the following additional import quotas in respect of the commodity classes mentioned below:

- (a) For clothing an additional quota of 40 per cent of the total permit allocation for 1972 would be granted which, together with the initial issue of 80 per cent of the total allocation for 1972 that was made in November, would bring the allocation for 1973 up to 120 per cent of the total allocation for 1972. The Minister added that in order to enable speciality clothing shops to plan their imports with due regard to the seasonal differences between the northern and southern hemispheres, he had also already decided that the total 1973 allocation in respect of clothing would be raised to 200 per cent of the 1972 permit issues. This left a balance of 80 per cent to be issued in August, but in this connexion the Minister warned that shipments should not be effected against the further 80 per cent permit issue before this planned third issue of permits had been received by importers, as there would definitely not be any further special permit issues.

- (b) For consumer's goods there would be an additional quota of 40 per cent of the total permit allocation for 1972 which, together with the initial issue of 80 per cent of the total allocation for 1972 which was made in November, would bring the allocation for 1973 up to 120 per cent of the total allocation for 1972. In this particular case consideration would be given to the possible issue of a further allocation in August.
- (c) For confectionery there would be an additional quota of 80 per cent of the total permit allocation for 1972 which, together with the initial issue of 80 per cent of the total allocation for 1972 which was made in November, would bring the allocation for 1973 up to 160 per cent of the total allocation for 1972. In this case, too, consideration would be given to the possible issue of a further allocation in August.
- (d) In the case of all alcoholic beverages, including whiskey, an initial issue of 80 per cent of the 1972 allocation was made in November while, in the case of whiskey alone, an additional initial issue of 80 per cent of the 1972 allocation for this commodity was also made at that time. An additional allocation of 40 per cent of the 1972 allocation would now be made for all alcoholic beverages, including whiskey, while an additional allocation of 40 per cent would be made for whiskey alone. The importation of whiskey could of course be effected under either or both of these two allocations.

5. In conclusion the Minister stated that the additional permit allocations for the goods mentioned above would not be issued automatically to importers. Importers who wished to avail themselves thereof, should apply in writing to the Director of Imports and Exports, Private Bag XI92, Pretoria.