

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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## NEW ZEALAND - TARIFF-FREE QUOTAS FOR HANDICRAFT PRODUCTS FROM SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS

First Annual Report Submitted  
by the Delegation of New Zealand

1. On 13 November 1973 the CONTRACTING PARTIES, acting pursuant to the provisions of Article XXV:5 of the General Agreement, agreed to waive, until 31 December 1976, the application of the provisions of Article I of the General Agreement to the extent necessary to permit the Government of New Zealand to establish duty-free quotas for specified hand-made handicraft products which originate in Fiji, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Tonga or Western Samoa.<sup>1</sup> The Government of New Zealand was required to report annually to the CONTRACTING PARTIES on the action taken by it under this decision, providing information regarding imports into New Zealand from all sources of the specified products.
2. The Pacific Islands Handicraft Scheme has now been operating for one full year and the following report on its operation is submitted accordingly.
3. The New Zealand Government is unable to provide precise details of the imports into New Zealand of the products eligible for tariff-free entry under the scheme. This is because there are no separate tariff items and therefore no separate import classification for the products involved. In general, such products are classified with a wide range of other goods under the tariff classification, "wooden articles, not elsewhere specified".
4. However, figures can be provided for total imports under the scheme, which in the year ended 30 June 1975 amounted to approximately \$NZ 100,000.
5. Imports from Papua New Guinea tended to be decorative articles, such as masks and carvings, those from Tonga were generally baskets, mats and shell jewellery, while handicrafts imported from Fiji covered the range of items specified in the scheme.

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<sup>1</sup> BISD Twentieth Supplement, pages 29 and 30

6. The New Zealand Government understands that the trade, although small, is of considerable significance to the islands participating in the scheme. Widespread interest has been shown by New Zealand importers and in the 1974-75 period twenty-four importers were nominated by the beneficiary countries to act on their behalf.

7. During the first year of operation of the scheme no contracting party has claimed to have suffered injury as a result of the operations of the scheme, or requested consultation with the Government of New Zealand as provided for in the terms of the waiver.