

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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30 April 1975

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

GROUP 3(e) - BASIC DOCUMENTATION

Inventory of Various Non-Tariff Barriers
Marketing Standards and Packaging and Labelling Regulations

Addendum

CANADA

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Product: (BTN)	Country or group maintaining measure:	Countries indicating an interest:
Agricultural products	Canada	Switzerland

(a) Description:

Technical and administrative questions:

Canadian legislation on the importation of agricultural products and customs clearance procedures can have disadvantages for the exporter of preserved foods and chocolate and involve him in considerable incidental expenses:

- the smallest details of the methods of manufacture have to be stated;
- there are very strict regulations concerning the text and presentation of labels;
- in the case of the Province of Quebec, the text must be printed, in letters of the same size, in English and French; - any text in another language must be reproduced, the same size, in English and French;
- the regulations concerning the marking of cartons require that an approved text shall be printed even on the outer packing.

(b) Comments by other countries: See page 33.

(c) Comments by the country maintaining the measures:

The regulations concerning standards of marketing, marking and labelling are applicable to local products in the same way as to imported products. Description of methods of manufacture is only required, in certain cases, for meat preparations and preserved meat, at the request of the health authorities. Except in the case of products made of meat, prior approval of labelling and packing is not required. For the Province of Quebec, where the majority of the population is French speaking, all labels must bear a French text in letters of the same size as the other languages used; for the remainder of Canada the texts may be in French and/or English and an exact translation is not required.

The representative of Canada recalled the part his country had played in the work of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, and in that of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling, to which Canada was host country.