

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/538

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TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
AND THE FEDERATION OF RHODESIA AND NYASALAND

Adjustments pursuant to the Decision of the
CONTRACTING PARTIES of 3 December 1955

The following communication has been received from the Government of the Union of South Africa for the information of the contracting parties:

"I have the honour to refer to the Decision taken by the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 3 December 1955, concerning the Customs Tariff of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland and the Trade Agreements between the Federation and the Union of South Africa and Australia, and to paragraph 6 of document L/468 of 2 December 1955, read in conjunction with document SECRET/56 of 2 December 1955.

"The negotiations between the Governments of the Union of South Africa and the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, to which reference was made in paragraph 6 of document L/468, have not yet been finalized, but agreement has meanwhile been reached between the two Governments with respect to adjustments in certain South African tariff rates applicable to goods imported from the Federation. These adjustments are set forth in an Exchange of Notes dated 23 May 1956, between the two Governments.¹

"All the adjustments to Annexure B, Part II of the Agreement (in other words those set forth in Part 2 of the Exchange of Notes) are covered by the Decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES of 3 December 1955, and appear in document GATT SECRET/56 of 2 December 1955.

"As regards the insertion in Annexure B, Part I, of South African tariff item 251(a) which was not included in document GATT SECRET/56, I should explain that this insertion is intended merely to give effect to the understanding reached between the two Governments at the time of the original negotiations that all sizes of cotton-mesh and canvas shoes of the type described in tariff item ex 251(c) should be included in Annexure B, Part I. The description 'Sizes other than those provided for in sub-paragraph (i)', which at present appears against tariff item ex 251(c)(ii) in Annexure B, Part I, to the Agreement, was originally interpreted as applying also to infants' sizes cotton-mesh and canvas shoes, but subsequent to the conclusion of the Agreement it was discovered that infants' footwear of the cotton-mesh and canvas type is classifiable under South African tariff item ex 251(a) and

¹ See Annex

not under tariff item ex 251(c)(ii). The insertion of the former tariff item accordingly serves merely to rectify a genuine error in the interpretation of the scope of the tariff description which appears against item ex 251(c) in the relevant Annexure to the Agreement, and does not constitute a new concession in favour of the Federation."

ANNEX

1. Note addressed by the High Commissioner for the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland to the Acting Secretary for External Affairs for the Union of South Africa

"I have the honour to refer to discussions which have taken place between officials of our two Governments, and to state that my Government is prepared to agree to the following modifications being made to the Trade Agreement of 28 June 1955, between the Government of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland and the Union of South Africa:

(1) Annexure B, Part I

Insert the following item under item "ex 251 Boots and shoes:"

"ex (a) Infants' cotton-mesh and canvas shoes of the tennis or gymnasium type, the soles of which, excluding the socking, are wholly of rubber; and infants' canvas boots and shoes with rope soles -

ex (i) Sizes 0 to $2\frac{1}{2}$
ex(ii) Sizes 3 to $6\frac{1}{2}$."

(2) Annexure B, Part II

(i) Delete item "ex 66 (b) (ii) Single-ply yarns of cotton, for manufacturing purposes, not bleached, coloured, dyed, mercerized or otherwise processed" and substitute the following therefor:

"66 (b)(ii) Single-ply yarns of cotton, flax, hemp, jute and manila, for manufacturing purposes, not bleached, coloured, dyed, mercerized or otherwise processed.

(iii) Cotton yarns, single-ply or otherwise, not bleached, coloured, dyed or further processed than mercerized, for manufacture into sewing threads.

(iv) Multiple jute and hemp yarns

(c) Yarns, n.e.e., of wool, artificial wool or rayon or mixtures thereof, and yarns made from reworked wool or from shoddy except cotton shoddy, but excluding lubricated yarn in the form of packing."

(ii) Insert the following sub-paragraphs under item ex 73(1):

"(a)(i) Handkerchiefs; traced napery; bedspreads;
collars; facecloths; scarves; hairbows; neckwear;
and cot covers.

(xiii) Tablecloths, serviettes, bedsheets, pillowcases and dusters -

(A) of calico, drill, twill or sateen;

(B) other."

(iii) Insert the following items:

"ex 80 Sewing, knitting, embroidery and crochet threads, yarns and twists; carpet and rug yarns for making carpets and floor rugs.

(b) Other

ex 81 (1)(b) Other thread, n.e.e.
ex 335 Yarns n.e.e."

"I have the honour to propose that this Note and your reply confirming that the amendments to the Trade Agreement of 28 June 1955, set out above are acceptable to the Government of the Union of South Africa, be regarded as constituting an agreement between our two Governments with effect from 1 June 1956, on the understanding, however, that in so far as cotton plied yarns classifiable under Union Tariff ex 80 (b) are concerned, the amendment to the Agreement shall be regarded as having become effective as from 1 July 1955."

2. Reply from the Acting Secretary for External Affairs

"I have the honour to acknowledge your note No. P.3/1 of today's date, reading as follows:

(See text of previous Note).

"In reply thereto, I have the honour to confirm that the amendments to the Trade Agreement of 28 June 1955, set out in your Note as quoted above are acceptable to the Government of the Union of South Africa, and that your Note and this reply shall be regarded as constituting an agreement between our two Governments with effect from 1 June 1956, subject, however, to the understanding that, in so far as cotton yarns classifiable under Union tariff item ex 80(b) are concerned, the amendment to the Trade Agreement shall be regarded as having become effective as from 1 July 1955, and subject to the further understanding that the agreement between our two Governments with respect to the amendments set forth in your Note shall lapse if not approved by both Houses of Parliament of the Union of South Africa in accordance with the Union's customs legislation."