

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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FRENCH IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

Liberalization of Imports effective from 1 January 1960

The following communications have been received from the French Government and are circulated for information of the contracting parties.

I. LETTER DATED 24 DECEMBER 1959 FROM THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

"The 'Journal Officiel' of the French Republic of today's date publishes a Notice to importers of products originating in and emanating from member countries of the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation, of the United States and of Canada, which Notice includes as an annex a list of products, the importation of which from those countries is not liberalized.

"In other words, the aforementioned Notice purports to liberalize the importation of products which, on one hand, were not previously liberalized and, on the other hand, are not included in the annex under reference.

"I shall be grateful if you will acquaint the CONTRACTING PARTIES with this decision of the French Government, which will result in opening up our market still further to exporters of several European and North American countries."

II. NOTE DATED 22 DECEMBER 1959 COMMUNICATED BY THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

"A further extension to the measures of trade liberalization will become effective on 1 January 1960, notification of which will appear in the 'Journal Officiel' within the next few days. This notification will take the form of a negative list of the commodities which will continue to be subject to quotas. In order to appreciate the economic import of these measures and the interest which they represent for the United States, attention may be called to:

"(1) the extent of this additional liberalization effort which, expressed on the basis of 1957 reference, raises the level of our liberalization towards the OEEC, from 80 per cent to about 90 per cent. The percentage of liberalization towards the United States and Canada on the basis of recent references has not yet been calculated;

"(2) the willingness to apply non-discrimination between the OEEC, the United States and Canada. The forthcoming liberalization measures apply in their entirety to the United States and Canada as well as to the OEEC; furthermore, out of the thirty-six tariff items which on 26 September 1959 were still subject to quotas with the dollar area, while liberalized with the OEEC, twelve will be liberalized towards the United States and Canada, these items being: boric acid and borate, ether oxy-alcohols, ketone alcohols, dyeing and colouring materials and lacquers, tyres, spare parts for pumps, trailers, working garments (overalls), acrylic textile fibres and yarns (owlon);

"(3) the importance of the liberalized commodities. Among agricultural products are included for instance: whisky, honey, low-strength beer, dried or smoked fish, liquer wines, tapioca, fatty acids. Among industrial products: structural alloy steel, lead and zinc scrap, ferro-nickel, semi-manufactured products of nickel. In the sector of mechanical and electrical industries: motor cars and small delivery motor trucks, wheeled tractors, reapers-threshers, engines, certain machine-tools (vertical lathes, power presses, hydraulic machinery, etc.), pumps for liquids, washing-machines, electro-mechanical tools, industrial handling trucks, certain equipment for public works (cranes on wheels, motor shovels and loaders, etc.), electrical batteries and lamps, generators and transformers, laboratory apparatus, measuring and detecting equipment, etc. In the sector of chemical industries, the following items are liberalized: composite fertilizers, triple superphosphates, phosphorus and silicon, cobalt sulphate chloride, perborates, oxygenated water, ammonium and potassium phosphates; over 100 items of organic chemicals, including antibiotics, vitamins, sulphur drugs, di-trichloromethane xylenes, methanol, propanol, octylic alcohol, cyclic ureins, etc.; laundry preparations and starching products; several plastic materials: aminoplasts, epoxy- and oleoglycero-phthalic resins, low pressure polythene, etc. Among the consumption goods liberalized are: films and paper for colour photography, rubber bolting, aircraft tyres, footwear for tennis and basketball, illumination and optical glass, tiles of cement, stoneware or earthenware, sinks and washbasins, cellulose sponges, dry ink, travel goods, silk fabrics unprinted, fabrics of synthetic fibres (nylon, dacron, etc.), artificial fibres (yarns, staple fibre, fabrics), linen fabrics, printed cotton fabrics, carpeting made of cotton or synthetic fibres, velvet, ribbons and tulle made of artificial or synthetic fibres, all garments except waterproof and those made of wool or synthetic fibre, all household linen and clothing accessories not previously liberalized, musical instruments, gramophone records, fountain pens, electric billiards and sporting goods".