

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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## IMPORT RESTRICTIONS OF SOUTH AFRICA

### Policy Statement Made by the Minister of Economic Affairs of the Union of South Africa on Monday, 17 April 1961

The Minister of Economic Affairs announced today that he had taken the following decisions in respect of the issue of further import facilities for 1961:

- (i) for Group A consumer goods a further 25 per cent issue will be made, bringing the issues for 1961 up to 75 per cent of the average permit issues granted for 1959 and 1960;
- (ii) for Group B consumer goods a further 10 per cent issue will be made; and
- (iii) for raw materials and capital equipment additional issues of permits will be made in the light of actual requirements and existing stocks.

Dr. Diederichs, in making his announcement, said:

In November when announcing the 1961 policy regarding imports it was stated that it was desirable to exercise a measure of caution with the issue of import permit allocations.

In the light of the present level of our foreign exchange reserves I am continuing with that policy. Additional allocations will however be considered later in the year if the level of our reserves makes this practicable.

Dr. Diederichs, continuing, stated - an incentive scheme under which exporters of locally produced goods containing imported raw materials will receive additional import facilities for raw materials in direct relation to their exports, is again in operation. I hope that those manufacturers who do not yet sell their products outside the Union and South West Africa and who consider their import facilities inadequate will be encouraged by this scheme to enter the export field. By selling their products in other markets they will be able to increase their production and at the same time to ensure an increase in their import facilities.