

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/1502

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## IMPORT RESTRICTIONS OF SOUTH AFRICA

### Notification by the South African Government of New Changes in the Restrictions

1. Since the completion of South Africa's 1961 consultations with the CONTRACTING PARTIES under Article XII:4(b)<sup>1</sup>, the South African Government has found it necessary to introduce certain changes in its import restrictions which are designed to supplement measures taken in the financial field with a view to arresting the current unfavourable trend in the country's monetary reserves.
2. These changes, which are incorporated in the consolidated import control measures published in Government Gazette Extraordinary No. 6685 of 12 May 1961<sup>2</sup>, are as follows:
  - (i) the deletion, from the list of goods which may be imported without permit, of textile piece goods, and the transfer of such goods to the import group "Raw Materials" for which permits are issued to cover the full requirements of importers not available from domestic sources of supply (vide paragraph 1 of Government Notice R.721 published in the Gazette Extraordinary);
  - (ii) a close scrutiny of applications for permits in respect of certain types of raw materials and equipment so as to take account of the availability of such goods from domestic sources before permits are issued (paragraph 2 of Government Notice R.721);
  - (iii) the introduction of specific import quotas for motor-cars (the importation of which were previously licensed on the basis of replacement of retail sales) (paragraph 3 of Government Notice R.721);

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<sup>1</sup>Completed on 26 April 1961, see report in L/1463.

<sup>2</sup>A copy of this is on file, and can be consulted, in the secretariat.

- (iv) the introduction of specific import quotas for Group A consumer goods (i.e. those goods not manufactured to any appreciable extent in South Africa), which previously were licensed to meet the full requirements of importers (paragraph 4 of Government Notice R.721); and
- (v) the introduction of a list of goods subject to special import permits, comprising:
  - (a) certain types of consumer goods which are either luxuries or which are available in adequate supplies from domestic sources, and which may be imported only against permits specifically authorising their importation (holders of valid import permits for general merchandise, i.e. consumer goods not on this special list, may convert such permits on application into permits for goods on the special list at the rate of R3 for R1) (paragraph 5 of Government Notice R.721); and
  - (b) certain types of industrial equipment, machinery and materials for which special permits will be granted with due regard to the availability of such or similar goods from domestic sources and their degree of essentiality (paragraph 5, Note 1, of Government Notice R.721).