

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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## SOUTH AFRICAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

### Supplementary Import Allocations for 1963

The following is a statement made on 26 April 1963 by the Minister of Economic Affairs of South Africa. The text has been transmitted by the South African delegation for the information of contracting parties.

I indicated last year how our import control programme for 1963 was expected to unfold. To a great extent our expectations have been fulfilled and I can, therefore, now indicate what the position will be for the remainder of the year.

#### 1. Consumer goods

When I announced the first round of permit issues for consumer goods last November, I said that we had in view for 1963, increases of 10 per cent and 12½ per cent over the 1962 allocations on category A and B goods respectively. This I should like to confirm.

Of the total permit issues anticipated for these two groups of consumer goods in 1963, importers have already received 55 per cent and 66 per cent respectively, and the balance of the total allocations envisaged will now be issued.

#### 2. Raw materials

In respect of merchants importing raw materials for resale, I made a concession last year and this I should like to maintain. Merchants have already received 50 per cent of the allocations envisaged for 1963, and a further 50 per cent issue is now being authorized.

#### 3. Textile piece-goods

On account of the already substantial expansion of our textile industry and also as a result of expected further expansions, a close watch is being kept on the spending of foreign currency on this type of imports. Last year, after consultation with the interested organizations, I made a concession on 1962 import quotas to counteract deficiencies in availability and variety. I think it is correct to proceed with this policy and, when issuing import permits, to keep an eye open for what we can manufacture ourselves. Such a survey has just been

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completed and again, after consultation with the organizations concerned, I have decided to authorize further permits to the value of 50 per cent of those already issued in advance. In addition I shall also at a later date, if it appears to be necessary, authorize further supplementary issues as I did in 1962.

As far as rice is concerned, further permits equal to those which have up to now been issued for 1963, will be made available to importers of rice.

For the rest the system regarding the issuing of permits remains the same, namely, the restricted list is still being revised and adjusted from time to time; the conversion of permits for the importation of items on the restricted list remains unchanged; and the existing arrangements regarding the importation of raw materials, machinery and equipment by manufacturers, as well as the importation of building timber, fertilizers and motor-cars, which functions satisfactorily and without any insurmountable bottlenecks, is being maintained unchanged.

Importers should, as usual, apply specifically for these supplementary allocations.