

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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IMPORT RESTRICTIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Addendum

The following communication dated 27 November 1973 has been received from the Permanent Representative of South Africa.

I have the honour to refer to paragraph 9 of document C/M/81 of 1 November 1972 and enclose copies of a press statement of 16 November 1973, wherein the Minister of Economic Affairs announced further relaxations of South Africa's import control.

A Government Notice giving full details of the import relaxations will be published shortly and copies will be forwarded to you as soon as they are received.

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PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED BY MR. S.L. MULLER,
MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Import Control

1. The Minister of Economic Affairs today announced that he had decided to implement the following relaxation of import control:

(i) the addition of 51 types of commodities to the "free list", i.e. the list of goods which may be imported free of permit and which appears in paragraph 1 of Government Notice No. R386 of 16 March 1973;

(ii) the relaxation of control over thirteen types of commodities which at present appear in paragraph 4 of the said Government Notice, by their deletion from paragraph 4 and transfer to paragraphs 2 and 3.

Paragraph 4 includes a number of commodities which may be imported only if the importer is in possession of a valid import permit in which such goods are specifically described, whereas goods appearing in paragraph 3 are subject to control under a quota system. For goods appearing in paragraph 2, import permits are issued to meet the full reasonable requirements of importers.

2. The Minister emphasized that these relaxations of import control in no way detract from the undertaking which he gave to manufacturers that the Government would effectively protect them if they were able to submit a valid case therefor.

3. Mr. Muller added that a Government Notice would shortly appear in the Government Gazette in which full particulars of the relaxations now announced by him, would be published.

4. The Minister further announced that for 1974 an initial permit allocation equivalent to 60 per cent of the total 1973 permit allocations would be granted in respect of the following classes and types of commodities:

- (a) Consumer goods
- (b) Clothing
- (c) Confectionery
- (d) (i) All alcoholic beverages, including whisky
- (ii) Whisky alone

The Minister declared that in accordance with the normal practice, further permit allocations for 1974 would again be considered during May 1974.

In conclusion, the Minister stressed that the initial allocation for the aforementioned classes and types of goods would not be issued automatically. Importers wishing to obtain initial allocations should apply in writing to the Director of Imports and Exports, Private Bag X192, Pretoria.