

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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## SWITZERLAND - EMERGENCY ACTION IN REGARD TO BOTTLED RED WINES

The following communication dated 19 October 1976 has been received by the secretariat from the Swiss authorities.

The rules governing imports of red wines into Switzerland are based on a quota system. That however does not apply to imports of bottled wine.

From 1960 to 1975, imports of red wines, which account for 80 to 85 per cent of consumption, increased by 53 per cent. As regards bottled red wines, the increase was 1,400 per cent.<sup>1</sup>

In view of the present decline in consumption, the Swiss authorities have to adjust accordingly - while honouring their contractual commitments in the matter - the possibilities of importing wine in barrels. In order to ensure the effectiveness of that measure and in view of the position that has been assumed by imports of bottled wines, the following action has been taken with respect to the latter:

While continuing to be liberalized, imports of bottled red wines in excess of the average annual volume imported during the period 1971-1975 shall be subject, as from 1 November 1976, to an additional duty of Sw F 100 per quintal.

As regards domestic production, in addition to the existing measures - strict delimitation of the vine-growing area, quality control, campaigns for non-alcoholic utilization of the harvest - the Swiss authorities and the circles concerned will participate directly in regularizing the wine market, in the context of operations provided for by national legislation.

The substance of the measures described above has been communicated to the exporting countries concerned through the customary bilateral channels.

<sup>1</sup> Imports of these bottled wines thus amount to 50 per cent of the average domestic red vintage whereas it represented only 5 per cent in 1960.

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