

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/4881

23 November 1979

Special Distribution

Original: French

IMPORT RESTRICTIONS APPLIED BY SWITZERLAND

Thirteenth Annual Report by the Government of Switzerland under Paragraph 4 of the Protocol for the Accession of Switzerland (1978)

Paragraph 4 of the Protocol for the Accession of Switzerland to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade provides that Switzerland shall furnish annually to the CONTRACTING PARTIES a report on the measures maintained consistently with its reservation "with regard to the application of the provisions of Article XI of the General Agreement to the extent necessary to permit it to apply import restrictions pursuant to Title II of the Federal Law of 3 October 1951 as well as pursuant to Article 11 of the Federal Decree of 28 September 1956/ 28 September 1962 and to the Swiss legislation concerning alcohol and wheat based on Articles 32 bis and 23 bis of the Federal Constitution".

The present report covers the period from 1 January 1978 to 31 December 1978.

A. Legal basis of the Swiss restrictions

There was no amendment during the period under consideration to the provisions relating to the restrictions applied by Switzerland to agricultural products. These provisions are governed by the following laws:

- (1) Federal Law on the Improvement of Agriculture and the Maintenance of the Peasant Population (Agriculture Act), 3 October 1951;
- (2) Federal Law on Alcohol, 21 June 1932/25 October 1949;
- (3) Federal Decree on External Economic Measures of 28 June 1972;
- (4) Federal Law on National Wheat Supplies (Wheat Act), 20 March 1959.

B. Products subject to quantitative restrictions

In 1978, quantitative restrictions concerned the same products as in 1977.

C. Types of quantitative restrictions

There was no change either in the systems of restrictions or in the basis of their operation. Those systems were described in detail in document L/3250. They are also described in part in document MTN/3E/DOC/2/Add.22.

D. Application of restrictions during the period under consideration

There was no change in 1978 in the system of quantitative restrictions applied by Switzerland. Imports in general reached very much the same level as the previous year, as may be seen from the tables in Annexes I and II.

The various individual sectors call for the following comments:

1. Cereals and feeding stuffs

In 1978, imports of bread wheat rose somewhat for the third year in succession, in spite of a good harvest of wheat, whose protein content, however, was below average.

Imports of feed grains and fodder, in particular of denatured wheat and oats, also increased slightly.

2. Livestock and meat

The number of head of dairy cattle and livestock for breeding imported in 1978 was almost the same as in previous years.

Imports of livestock for slaughter, of meat and of meat preparations and preserved meat were substantially higher than in previous years. This was due to slightly lower domestic production and higher consumption.

3. Dairy products

In 1978, domestic milk was used more for the production of cheese than for the production of butter. That was the main cause of a new increase in imports of butter (+31.5 per cent with respect to 1977).

On the other hand, there was a slight decrease in imports of whole milk powder and lactic casein.

4. Eggs in shell

Once again, imports of fresh eggs increased and reached a record level in 1978 (+5.2 per cent as compared to 1977). This was due in particular to the prices of the imports, which were even lower than those of last year (-22 per cent on average) and adversely affected income from domestic production.

5. Vegetables

Imports of fresh vegetables in 1978 clearly exceeded those of previous years. Imports of food potatoes set a record. On the other hand, imports of seed potatoes and seedling onions for planting declined as compared to 1977.

6. Fruit

A very large domestic crop was responsible for a decline in imports of apples and pears in 1978. There was, however, a substantial increase during the period under review, in imports of stone fruit and fresh berries.

7. Cut flowers

As in previous years, imports of cut flowers again increased in 1978 (+ 15.7 per cent), subjecting domestic production to strong competitive pressure.

8. Wine and grape juice

In 1978, imports of wine in cask declined somewhat as compared to 1977 but remained higher than in 1976. The level of imports of bottled white wine did not change during the period under review.

Imports of grape juice were much higher than in previous years.

9. Ethyl alcohol

Import volume greatly exceeded that of 1977 and reached a record level.

ANNEX I

Trend of Swiss Imports of Agricultural Products
Subject to Quantitative Restrictions

	<u>1976</u> <u>Tons</u>	<u>1977</u> <u>Tons</u>	<u>1978</u> <u>Tons</u>
1. <u>Cereals and feeding stuffs</u>			
(a) <u>Breadwheat</u>	251,068	265,653	274,800
(b) <u>Flour</u> (including hard wheat meal)	53	223	63
(c) <u>Feedgrains and feeding stuffs</u>	1,183,280	1,030,227	1,106,186
(d) <u>Grain for sowing</u>	5,149	6,719	6,577
2. <u>Livestock and meat</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>Head</u>
(a) <u>Dairy cattle and livestock for breeding</u>	2,074	2,284	2,189
(b) <u>Cattle for slaughter</u>	5,966	5,905	8,147
	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>
(c) <u>Meat and animal fats</u>	17,695	17,767	24,189
(d) <u>Meat preparations and preserved meat</u>	6,152	6,365	6,811
3. <u>Dairy products</u>			
(a) <u>Fresh butter</u>	9,785	11,371	14,950
(b) <u>Whole milk powder</u>	1,755	1,794	1,617
(c) <u>Casein</u>	365	500	316
4. <u>Eggs in shell</u>	22,607	23,075	24,265

	<u>1976</u> <u>Tons</u>	<u>1977</u> <u>Tons</u>	<u>1978</u> <u>Tons</u>
5. <u>Vegetables</u>			
(a) <u>Fresh vegetables</u>	147,978	151,072	157,418
(b) <u>Food potatoes</u>	5,988	5,989	22,693
(c) <u>Potato products</u>	215	183	406
(d) <u>Seed potatoes</u>	1,392	11,582	5,933
(e) <u>Seedling onions for planting</u>	187	167	67
6. <u>Fruit and fruit preparations</u>			
(a) <u>Apples and pears</u>	13,392	28,380	18,818
(b) <u>Stone fruit (except peaches)</u>	11,709	10,546	15,964
(c) <u>Fresh berries</u>	14,335	15,369	17,098
(d) <u>Apples and pears for cider and perry</u>	-	178	2
(e) <u>Pectin</u>	164	155	157
(f) <u>Apple juice and pear juice</u>	27	51	18
7. <u>Cut flowers, 1 May to 25 October</u>	1,858	1,976	2,287
	<u>'000 hl.</u>	<u>'000 hl.</u>	<u>'000 hl.</u>
8. <u>Wine and grape juice</u>			
(a) <u>Wine in casks</u>	1,546	1,634	1,577
(b) <u>White wine in bottles</u>	52	48	47
(c) <u>Grape juice</u>	81	78	136
9. <u>Ethyl alcohol</u>	231	170	269

ANNEX II

Provenance of Imports of Certain Products Subject to
Quota Restriction

1. Cut flowers imported between 1 May and 25 October

	<u>1976</u> kgs.	<u>1977</u> kgs.	<u>1978</u> kgs.
Federal Republic of Germany	6,258	6,778	7,399
France	28,395	57,109	38,707
Italy	560,660	567,306	649,632
Netherlands	920,695	942,167	1,055,280
Denmark	6,271	3,957	4,600
Portugal	5,929	9,946	4,799
Spain	105,946	127,173	180,804
Bulgaria	1,962	4,321	2,955
Israel	41,256	62,085	90,261
Thailand	43,616	38,548	50,593
Malaysia	777	451	837
Singapore	17,117	17,295	20,909
United States	3,760	5,721	11,911
Brazil	1,587	1,610	-
Colombia	85,300	88,660	92,963
Australia	4,716	4,942	4,820
New Zealand	725	883	1,614
Ivory Coast	2,107	3,191	2,886
Kenya	-	12,098	33,600
Republic of South Africa	17,222	21,181	31,324
Miscellaneous	3,220	1,067	1,354
<u>Total</u>	1,857,519	1,976,489	2,287,248

2. Salami and the like

Federal Republic of Germany	76,642	76,371	84,496
France	129,234	133,932	146,905
Italy	2,927,266	2,979,958	3,031,883

	<u>1976</u> kgs.	<u>1977</u> kgs.	<u>1978</u> kgs.
Belgium-Luxembourg	20	-	2,880
United Kingdom	1,195	-	-
Spain	2,180	6,929	-
Hungary	61,180	60,135	55,942
Miscellaneous	1,831	425	107
<u>Total</u>	3,199,548	3,257,750	3,324,061
3. <u>Tinned ham</u>			
Netherlands	24,911	22,359	26,581
Denmark	63,443	59,610	52,034
Belgium-Luxembourg	-	3,865	2,424
Spain	7,445	3,622	1,980
Czechoslovakia	11,000	11,000	-
Romania	15,120	14,761	22,653
Miscellaneous	784	24	19
<u>Total</u>	122,703	115,241	105,691
	<u>hl.</u>	<u>hl.</u>	<u>hl.</u>
4. <u>Wine in casks</u>			
(a) <u>Red wine</u>			
France	245,900	257,559	261,502
Italy	504,819	503,267	504,313
Austria	1,303	1,256	2,005
Portugal	58,944	126,643	87,411
Spain	435,450	445,482	380,040
Greece	25,866	15,697	21,385
Turkey	10,127	24,547	11,239
Hungary	17,740	18,456	23,214
Bulgaria	462	312	5,114
Yugoslavia	16,458	18,983	23,237
Cyprus	13,678	13,452	13,261

	<u>1976</u> hl.	<u>1977</u> hl.	<u>1978</u> hl.
Malta	418	-	823
Tunisia	8,763	3,188	5,266
Algeria	79,678	83,198	96,050
Morocco	5,280	3,212	3,424
Republic of South Africa	1,609	2,950	2,821
Israel	204	99	-
Argentina	10,866	12,654	21,106
Chile	2,582	1,355	3,611
Miscellaneous	738	97	63
<u>Total</u>	1,440,467	1,532,308	1,485,884

(b) White wine

Federal Republic of Germany	1,967	1,777	1,554
France	10,603	12,938	13,714
Italy	17,592	9,865	10,748
Austria	221	341	275
Spain	55,692	49,327	27,166
Malta	-	2,834	3,196
Greece	3,105	4,424	19,949
Miscellaneous	83	21	46
<u>Total</u>	89,263	81,527	76,646

	<u>1976</u> Tons	<u>1977</u> Tons	<u>1978</u> Tons
5. <u>Eggs in shell</u>			
Federal Republic of Germany	1,322	1,038	2,757
France	1,927	1,673	1,801
Netherlands	235	94	225
Belgium-Luxembourg	850	384	617
United Kingdom	500	121	338
Sweden	-	-	221
Finland	3,205	3,182	1,877
Spain	2,933	3,372	105
East Germany	-	-	1,248
Poland	2,197	3,813	4,594
Czechoslovakia	1,609	1,568	237
Hungary	4,492	5,963	8,892
Romania	802	736	278
Republic of South Africa	1,108	943	914
Israel	1,419	187	158
Miscellaneous	8	1	-
<u>Total</u>	22,607	23,075	24,265