This reply relates to Chapters 1-24 of the BTN. The reply of the Swiss authorities in respect of Chapters 25-99 was issued in Add.17 of this document.

1. With regard to products falling within Chapters 1-24 for the import of which a licence is required, Switzerland applies procedures which vary according to the nature of the goods.

   In some cases (e.g. 2(a) below) licences are granted automatically, while in other cases (e.g. 2(b) below) their grant is subject to the enforcement of quantitative restrictions. There is also a system of "take-over" for the products listed in 2(c) below, under which licences are granted without quantitative restriction on condition that the importer takes over like domestic products in proportion to his imports. Lastly, the goods enumerated in 2(d) below are subject to the "three phases" system described in document COM.AG/W/9/Add.5 of 20 May 1968, under which, according to the time of year, licences are granted automatically, or subject to conditions (either quantitative restrictions or take-over provisions).

2. Among the more important products subject to the above procedures may be listed the following:

   (a) Automatic licensing
   - Preserved milk products, excluding whole milk powder
   - Cheeses
   - Eggs, other than in shell
   - Honey
   - Coffee
   - Bread-grains
   - Certain products of the milling industry
- Various fodders, straw
- Oilseeds and oleaginous fruits
- Vegetable oils and fats, margarine
- Sugar
- Cocoa and cocoa preparations

(b) **Quantitative restrictions (quotas)**

- Live animals of the bovine, porcine and equine species, and meat derived therefrom
- Meat preparations and preserves
- Fresh-cut flowers imported between 1 May and 25 October (for the rest of the year imports are unrestricted and not subject to licence)
- Fodder cereals and certain fodder products
- Wine in cask
- Grape juice

(c) **"Take-over"**

- Live sheep and goats and meat derived therefrom
- Poultry meat
- Whole milk powder and casein
- Eggs in shell

(d) **"Three phases" system**

- The system covers most fresh fruit and vegetables also produced within the country, with the exception in particular of dessert grapes and peaches, the import of which is unrestricted and not subject to licence.

3. The licensing systems apply to all countries without distinction. The only exceptions to this rule result from the criteria laid down in respect of quality and plant health and only concern potato seedlings, vine-stocks and certain host plants.

4. The purpose of the automatic licensing systems varies with the products concerned:

- to ensure the levying of price supplements on imports (e.g. skimmed milk powder, condensed milk and certain fodder products);
- to ensure the maintenance of compulsory stocks related to the preparation of a war-time economy (e.g. sugar, coffee and cocoa);
- to ensure respect of health and plant-health regulations;
- to control quality (e.g. in the case of certain host plants);
- to ensure respect of reference prices (e.g. cheeses);
- to obtain detailed statistical data concerning imports.

The "take-over" and "three phases" systems were designed to limit recourse to quantitative restrictions while allowing the disposal of domestic production. Import licences for the products mentioned in 2(b) above are designed to ensure the application of quotas.

5. The legal basis of the licensing systems operating in Switzerland varies according to the category of products. It may rest on a Federal law adopted by the Parliament, or on a decree or order of the Federal Council. The letter's decisions regarding the regulation of imports into Switzerland are made in pursuance of the legislation in force in the agricultural sector.

6. As a rule, information is published concerning the formalities for filing applications for licences. Importers are informed in writing concerning the size of quotas and their allocation, etc.

The size of quotas is established, according to the product concerned, on a yearly, six-monthly or quarterly basis or for a shorter period. In most cases the decision is taken after consultation with the traders concerned through committees set up for the purpose.

There is no special allocation of licences to domestic producers of like goods. Unused allocations of quotas, as a rule, are not added to the quotas for a succeeding period.

There is no time-limit for the submission of applications for licences after the opening of a quota. Applications are decided upon within a period of one to three days, depending upon the product concerned. In certain cases consultation with another administrative organ may involve a delay of one or two weeks.

Generally speaking a single administrative organ deals with applications. In certain cases, applications are referred for an opinion to the Federal or a Cantonal Veterinary Office. The importer approaches only one administrative organ.

The allocation of quotas is normally based on previous imports, although in certain cases the business turnover of the applicant is also taken into account. A reserve is sometimes held to provide for the grant of licences to new importers.

As regards narcotics, which are subject to international legal provisions, see paragraph 6 in the reply of the Swiss authorities regarding Chapters 25-99 of the BTN (document COM.IND/W/55/Add.17, COM.AG/W/72/Add.17).
7. (a) Allowing for the time required to obtain a licence, applications must be handed in three to five days before actual importation. In exceptional cases the licence may be granted on a request by telephone. For the import of certain products, however, the approval of the Cantonal Veterinary Office may be required, and this may delay the grant of the licence for one or two weeks.

(b) Yes, as a rule.

(c) No.

(d) In most cases a single administrative organ considers applications. Nevertheless, applications relating to goods subject to veterinary control and to certain products in respect of which the legislation requires compulsory national reserves to be maintained have to be examined by a second administrative organ.

The applicant addresses himself to one administrative organ only.

8. Only the normal criteria are taken into account. The reasons for any refusal are given to the applicant, who has the right of appeal to the administrative authority or to an appeal commission.

See also paragraph 17 below.

9. (a) As a general rule any individual or legal entity domiciled in Switzerland may apply for an import licence. In certain cases the applicant must be regularly and professionally engaged in trade in the product in question. In some cases also, a licence will only be granted to the holder of a basic permit. There is no published list of authorized importers.

(b) Any individual or legal entity domiciled in Switzerland is authorized to apply for an import licence.

10. Only the customary information is required, but in a few cases the applicant must state the purpose for which the goods are to be imported.

11. In addition to the import licence and the documents normally required by the customs services, various certificates may be required, according to the particular product involved (certificate of origin, health or plant-health certificate, etc.). In certain cases where the importer is required to take over like domestic products he may be required to produce the corresponding invoices (and may even have to do so at the time when he applies for the import licence).

12. Except in a few cases where no fee is levied, a small charge is made upon the grant of a licence. The amount varies according to the product concerned and is designed to meet the administrative costs involved.
13. No, except in the case of sheep and goats for slaughter and meat derived therefrom, in which case a deposit is required to ensure that the importer fulfils his take-over obligations. This deposit is refunded when the importer closes down his activities.

14. The period of validity of a licence varies from two weeks to six months, according to the product concerned. The licence is normally renewable, even more than once, and in some cases may be valid indefinitely.

15. No.

16. No.

17. In a number of cases the grant of a licence may be subject to:

- the establishment of compulsory reserves (coffee and coffee extracts or essences; certain cereals; certain products of the milling industry; certain oilseeds and oleaginous fruits; certain seeds for sowing; sugar beet for use as fodder; carobs; certain edible oils and fats; cocoa and cocoa preparations; certain residues and waste products of the food industries);

- the payment of a contribution to a fund intended for the disposal of like domestic products (live animals for slaughter, pork and beef meats and fats, dead poultry, eggs, sausages and similar products consisting of meat, offals or blood);

- the take-over of like domestic products (e.g. certain live animals, certain types of meat and offals, dead poultry, whole milk powder, eggs, certain vegetables and cereals, certain products of the milling industry and certain residues and waste products of the food industries);

- payment of a price supplement on certain milk products, certain fodders and certain edible oils and fats;

- enforcement of a reference price, e.g. on certain cheeses;

- payment of a monopoly duty (up to 80 per cent on spirits).

18. No.

19. The necessary foreign exchange is automatically provided by the banking authorities.