TARIFF REDUCTIONS BY SWITZERLAND ON PRODUCTS
OF EXPORT INTEREST TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Communication from Switzerland

The following communication, relating to amendments to the Swiss customs tariffs which have the effect of reducing the tariff incidence on imports of a number of products notified as being of export interest to less-developed countries, has been received and is hereby circulated for the information of contracting parties.

... as an autonomous measure, the Swiss Government has made some amendments in the Swiss customs tariff. Those which may be of interest to the developing countries are as follows:

1. Decree of the Federal Council dated 25 June 1965

(a) "In part B (import tariff) of the Swiss customs tariff, note + 5 of Chapter 41 is amended by the addition of the following:

Wet pre-tanned leather falling within headings Nos. 4102 to 4105, containing more than 50 per cent by weight of water, shall be dutiable under sub-heading No. 4101.20."

This provision has the following consequences:

Pursuant to note + 5 of the Swiss customs tariff, "pre-tanned leather is treated as prepared leather". Prepared leather falling within headings Nos. 4102 to 4105 is dutiable at rates varying between fr. 30 and fr. 400 per 100 kgs. gross. In accordance with the above-mentioned addition to this note, wet pre-tanned leather, as defined in the note, is classified under heading No. 4101.20 at the rate of 50 centimes per 100 kgs. gross. The reduction in duties is therefore very substantial.
(b) "The rates of duty on slivers of flax or true hemp (Cannabis sativa) weighing more than 12 grammes per metre, falling within headings Nos. 5401.16 and 5701.16 of part B (import tariff) of the Swiss customs tariff are hereby reduced to 20 centimes per 100 kgs. gross.

The above-mentioned reduction of duty is valid until 30 June 1968. These measures may be rescinded before that date in the event of any change in economic conditions."

The rate of duty on tariff headings Nos. 5401.16 and 5701.16 is fr. 25 per 100 kgs. gross.

2. Decree of the Federal Council dated 25 March 1966

(a) Tariff heading No. 2007.08

"Juice of grapes, completely clarified and preserved, and juice of seed fruits (sweet cider), not concentrated, in casks, dutiable at the rate of fr. 30 per 100 kgs. gross, has been sub-divided in the following manner:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate per 100 kgs. gross</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007.06 Juice of seed fruits (sweet cider) fr. 30 (unchanged)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08 Juice of red grapes for the preparation of alcohol-free grape juice fr. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Other juice of grapes fr. 26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) "Baskets of strips of wood falling within heading No. 4409, without lid, for the transport of fruit" are dutiable under the general tariff at the rates corresponding to headings Nos. 4603.20 (fr. 50) and 4603.22 (fr. 75). In order to reduce the incidence of the duties on this product, it has been reclassified under heading No. 4603.10, dutiable at the rate of fr. 22 per 100 kgs. gross.

(c) According to the general tariff, the decisive criterion for classifying "children's footwear" falling within heading No. 6402.20 (fr. 300) was the length of the sole which could not be more than 23.5 cm. Henceforth, children's footwear is deemed to be footwear "of a size up to number 35", thus extending the quantity of footwear coming within this category. (Rate of duty on footwear, other, weighing per pair 600 grammes or less: fr. 480 per 100 kgs. gross.)

The full text of the decrees referred to above, introducing also amendments to the customs tariff in respect of certain other products, may be seen at the secretariat.