GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

GATT Liberalization Communiqué No. 18

New Zealand relaxes Restrictions on many Imported Goods

Import Licensing Schedule revisions for 1960, which were announced on 9 March, by the Minister of Customs, the Hon. R. Boord, provide for further increases in the general level of imports during 1960 over that for 1959.

The revisions include provision for a new designation "A" in respect of thirty-one items. For these goods, licences will be issued to the extent applied for. The items in this group are in some cases of a relatively minor nature but in general it covers items for which there is a somewhat restricted demand. Included are such items as chicory, naphthalene, saccharin, pure silk, lisle and cashmere stockings, bookbinders' materials and certain brushes.

The "R" ("Replacement") category has been extended to cover a further fifty-two items of a wide and varied nature. Some of the major items now included are dried fruits (other than apples), canned pineapple, mustard, desiccated coconut, rice, sago, tapioca, certain drugs and chemicals, manufactured dyes and dyeing materials, scientific instruments, fur skins, union textiles, pianos, emery paper and cloth, magazines and periodicals, electric motors, measuring appliances, most tools, tractors and sewing machines.

The token ("T") scheme has also been expanded by a further forty-seven items. All of the items included were formerly "D" (no allocation) goods. In most cases, the token provision is 10 per cent of 1956 imports, but in a few cases it is 100 per cent of 1956 imports and in some others 20 per cent or 25 per cent of 1957 licences. Examples are roasted coffee (excluding Nescafé, for which a separate bulk licence has been issued), coffee essence, canned meats, sheep-dip, certain items in the apparel, footwear and hosiery fields, hot-water bags, building board, motor lawn-mowers, coconut oil, white lead in oil and detergent powders in bulk. The token scheme now applies to a total of 140 items.

In respect of about ninety items the basic allocations have been increased, the increases ranging up to 100 per cent of 1956 imports. Some of the major items included are canned fish, cigars, spirits, wines, dextrine, leather gloves, fabric gloves, buttons, drapery, haberdashery, sheets, towels, tablecloths and certain other textile articles, hand knitting wool
children’s, maids’ and youths’ footwear, grindery, various leathers, chinaware, glassware, clocks, toys, sporting requisites and games, projectors, cameras, watches, wallpapers, stationery, earth-moving machinery, food mixers, metal-working machinery, baths, certain pipes and tool handles.

Additional funds have been allocated to about fifty items for which no change has been made in the published allocation. Further applications will now be received in respect of these items which generally are in the "C" (individual consideration) category. Included are certain druggists’ sundries and certain chemicals, woollen piecegoods, paper pulp, castors, pick-up hay balers, agricultural machinery, dairying machinery, electric hair clippers, torches, printing machinery, industrial machinery and blind rollers.

Dollar discrimination has been removed in respect of timber.