GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

REDUCTIONS IN BARRIERS TO TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Since the beginning of 1960 a number of important steps have been taken by contracting parties to the General Agreement which have had the effect of reducing considerably barriers to trade in agricultural and food products entering importantly into international trade.

DENMARK

As from 1 March 1960 a large number of items were removed from the list of commodities for which import licences were required. The main agricultural and food items included malt; prepared or preserved fish, crustaceans and molluscs; manufactured tobacco; malt extract; and various food preparations, including sauces, soups and broths.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

In accordance with the terms of the GATT Decision on the progressive elimination of quantitative restrictions, the Federal German Government liberalized, with effect from 1 January 1960, hens' eggs in the shell; natural honey; refined castor oil; maltose, laevulose, maple sugar and syrups made thereof and malt extract.

FRANCE

Effective 1 January 1960 France freed from import restriction whisky; honey; dried or smoked fish; liqueur wines, tapioca and fatty acids.

An additional list of items which could be freely imported without limitation from all countries was published during February. This list included natural honey, sweetened forage and other prepared feedingstuffs for animals.

GHANA

In a Notice to Importers dated 14 March 1960 the Government of Ghana placed all agricultural products which had been previously subject to specific licensing treatment when imported from the dollar area, with the exception of unmanufactured and manufactured tobacco, under Open General Licence.

MORE
ITALY

In January Italy liberalized a number of agricultural imports from the dollar currency area. These products included prunes, meat extract and spirits and liquors.

On 1 June 1960 Italy liberalized from the dollar area, imports of meat and edible offals; vegetables, fresh or preserved; oats; certain starches; oilseeds and oleaginous fruit, excluding copra seeds for sowing; flours or meals of oilseeds or oleaginous fruit, non-defatted, excluding mustard flour; sausages and the like; certain preserved fruit; beet pulp and sweetened forage.

JAPAN

On 12 January the Japanese Government announced that dollar discrimination would be removed by steps from all products covered by the Automatic Approval System. Dollar imports of beef tallow and crude lard were to be freed from April 1960 and refined lard was to be freed after a revision of the tariff rate. Soya beans from the dollar area were expected to be covered by the Automatic Approval System from October 1960.

In January and April further lists of products were added to the Automatic Approval List. These lists included wool waste.

NETHERLANDS

In implementing the programme announced during the GATT fifteenth session for the progressive removal of the remaining import restrictions, the Government of the Netherlands removed, on 1 January 1960, import restrictions on husked, fully polished unbroken rice; beet sugar and cane sugar; and seed-rye. Effective 1 July 1960 import restrictions were removed on swine, pork, bacon, beef, veal, horseflesh; butter, fresh milk, butter milk, curdled milk, fermented milk, milk cream, milk and cream condensed without addition of sugar; poultry eggs in the shell; tomatoes, onions, fresh cauliflower, other fresh brassica of all kinds; fresh spinach and lettuce, fresh carrots, fresh french beans and peas; fresh apples and pears, fresh peaches, cherries and plums, fresh strawberries; seed wheat, seed barley, seed oats; lard and other pig fats, lard oil and poultry fats.

NEW ZEALAND

For 1960 the "R" (Replacement) category of licence has been extended to cover dried fruits (other than apples), canned pineapple, mustard, desiccated coconut, rice, sago and tapioca.

The Token ("T") scheme has also been expanded to include goods for which no allocations existed previously. These include canned meats, sheep dip, and coconut oil.

The basic allocations have been increased for canned fish, cigars, spirits and wines.
NORWAY

The global quota area was extended to include a number of countries including Brazil and Cambodia.

Effective 1 July an additional liberalization list was issued which included fresh, frozen and preserved vegetables of various kinds, some fresh and dried fruits; malt; forage products and hay; certain fats and oils; sugar; jams and preserved fruits and fruit and vegetable juices.

SWEDEN

As from 1 April 1960 Sweden extended the liberalization of the imports to cover all countries except most State-trading countries. The extension did not apply, however, to a few items in the animal sector, which remained liberalized only towards the OEEC area, Finland and Yugoslavia.

UNITED KINGDOM

With effect from 1 February import controls were removed from dollar imports of tobacco and tobacco manufactures (other than cigars) and from fresh, chilled and frozen fish.