NEW ZEALAND UNDERTAKES FURTHER IMPORT LIBERALIZATION

The New Zealand authorities have advised the GATT secretariat that the 1961 import licensing schedule, released by the Minister of Customs on 26 September 1960, provides further easing of allocations for a wide range of imported goods. Approximately £240,000,000 is provided for private import payments. The replacement licence scheme has been extended by another forty-four items; the "A" or "amount applied for" category now applies to sixty-three items and increases in basic allocations are provided for numerous other commodities.

A total of 206 items are now designated "R" and new items in this category include canned fish, fish pastes, dress gloves of textile, certain musical instruments, potable spirits, precious and semi-precious stones, camera film, metal chain, printing machines, certain woodworking and metal-working machines, binoculars, corrugated iron, olive oil, linoleum and conoleum, nets and netting, and certain classes of medicinal preparations.

The list of goods completely exempt from import licensing is now extended to include butter, cheddar type cheeses and leaf tobacco for manufacture of cigarettes, tobacco and cigars.

In general, increased provision is now made for goods subject to increases in duty rate following alterations to the customs tariff in this year's budget. The allocation for table chinaware has been increased to 150 per cent of 1960 licences, but exclusion of low value table chinaware is continued.

The number of items for which token allocation is provided is increased to 157. A new designation "S" is provided to meet the needs of agricultural products, e.g. potatoes and onions imported only during local shortages.

Importers are requested to apply for basic allocation licences before 31 January 1961 and the question of providing additional funds for imports will be reviewed early in the New Year in the light of export trading prospects at that time.

END