By letter dated 11 January 1960 the Government of the Union of South Africa has transmitted the attached Press Statement of 3 December 1959 on the Import Control Policy to be pursued in 1960. Details of the import control regulations, including commodity lists, are contained in Government Notice No. 2046 of 11 December 1959 which was published in Extraordinary Government Gazette No. 6331 of the same date. Copies of this have been supplied by the Union Government and may be consulted at the secretariat.

"PRESS STATEMENT ON 1960 IMPORT CONTROL POLICY"

With reference to import control policy for next year, the Honourable the Minister of Economic Affairs today announced that although the Union's foreign exchange reserves are particularly favourable at present there are certain factors that call for caution as regards drastic changes in import control policy.

It has therefore been decided to continue the present policy in 1960 and to progressively remove anomalies to the extent permitted by circumstances. Administrative procedures will be simplified as much as possible in order to enable importers to procure their legitimate requirements without trouble.

As regards group A consumer goods, importers will now receive their full reasonable requirements, in other words these goods are no longer subject to quotas. For group B consumer goods a 40 per cent voorskot issue is being made. As in the past the granting of further quotas will be considered in the course of next year.

Limited group B quotas will also be granted to new importers wishing to establish a business but with the understanding that such imports will be regarded purely as filler lines to those goods that are available from local sources.

The present policy of issuing permits on a replacement of retail sales basis for the importation of motor vehicles, excluding built-up vehicles of an f.o.b. cost of over £600 will continue. It has, however, been decided to abolish the six months usage of vehicles acquired by Union residents on their overseas trips,
before allowing their importation. Permits will now be issued for the importation of vehicles (not exceeding the £800 f.o.b. ceiling) acquired for use overseas regardless of the period of usage on the understanding that such vehicles will not be disposed of within two years.

In view of the decimalization problem the importation of monetary office machines will be regulated.

Details of the administrative procedures to be followed in the implementation of the above policy will shortly be published in the Government Gazette."