NEW ZEALAND IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

Modification of Restrictions

1. The following communication, dated 29 April 1966, has been received from the New Zealand authorities:

"In accordance with the procedures approved on 16 November 1960 (BISD Ninth Supplement page 18), the following modifications of New Zealand’s import restrictions contained in the Import Licensing Schedule for 1966/67 are notified:

"The 1966/67 Import Licensing Schedule provides for the continuation of current exemptions from licensing with minor exceptions.

"The 'A' licence scheme is suspended together with provision for new importers under that scheme.

"Provision is made for manufacturers' raw materials and components at 85 per cent 1965/66 licences with some exceptions for individual item codes. Notable exceptions are iron and steel, 75 per cent; woollen piece goods and plastic moulding powders, C with initial allocation of 66 2/3rds per cent.

"The effect of the reductions on current import licensing levels will vary from manufacturer to manufacturer but manufacturers have been told to budget their full year’s production on the basis of schedule allocations.

"Varying allocations provide for consumer goods ranging generally from 85 per cent 1965/66 licences to 75 per cent consistent with their end use, the supply position of reasonable alternatives and the availability of funds.

"The token licence scheme is continued at the present level.

"Licences for major industrial plant and machinery will be issued on a restricted level but with the maximum possible provision made for spare parts. ./.
"Motor vehicle allocations are reduced by 20 per cent.

"Industry groups, interchangeability groups and the scheme for aggregation of licences are continued.

"Allocations in the schedule will sustain production and commercial activity at a level somewhat lower than the current year but higher than in any previous year."

2. When a contracting party applies new quantitative import restrictions but does not ask for a consultation with the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the procedures applicable to a contracting party which invokes Article XII envisage that the Council may invite that contracting party to consult in accordance with the provisions of Article XII:4(a) if the Council considers that there is a prima facie case of substantial intensification of restrictions. The Director-General therefore proposes to place the modification of New Zealand import restriction on the agenda of the next session of the Council but not to convocate a special meeting of the Council unless some contracting party so requests.