

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Group on Quantitative Restrictions
and Other Non-Tariff Measures

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PROPOSALS REGARDING QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS AND OTHER NON-TARIFF MEASURES

South Africa

The report (1985) of the Group on Quantitative Restrictions and Other Non-Tariff Measures, adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their forty-first session, contains the recommendation that contracting parties, following on the submissions already presented in 1985 (NTM/W/12 and Addenda), should make specific written proposals by the end of April 1986 directed towards the achievement of the objectives laid down by Ministers (L/5888, paragraph 49).

The following communication, dated 30 April 1986, has been received from the Permanent Mission of South Africa.

I have the honour to refer to the decision taken at the 41st Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to adopt the report of the Group on Quantitative Restrictions and Other Non-Tariff Measures (L/5929) and in accordance with the recommendations concerning the submission of specific written proposals to achieve the liberalization and elimination of quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff measures (L/5929), and as requested in GATT/AIR/2254 dated 28 February 1986, I have the honour to enclose the written proposals of South Africa.

PROPOSALS REGARDING QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS AND OTHER
NON-TARIFF MEASURES

SOUTH AFRICA

The following is a summary of the proposals submitted by South Africa since the establishment of the Group on Quantitative Restrictions and Other Non-Tariff Measures in pursuance of the objectives laid down by the GATT Ministerial meeting in 1982.

South Africa has, since its disinvocation of the provisions of Article XII:1, progressively dismantled its import restrictions in accordance with the provisions of Article XII:2(b) and on 1 January 1980 all remaining quota restrictions on imports were abolished.

Since the inception of the Group on Quantitative Restrictions and Other Non-Tariff Measures, the Special Interdepartmental Standing Committee, established for the purpose of reviewing the remaining items subject to import control, has completed the first phase of its investigation. As a result, a total of approximately 3 500 items has been liberalised from import control. Whereas in 1983, 77% of total imports (by value) were subject to import control measures, this total was reduced to 55% in 1984. A very large number of items was removed from import control during 1985, resulting in only 23% of all imports remaining subject to import control measures (all measures). The liberalised items include, inter alia, fatty acids, confectionery and baked products, cement, sulphur, graphite, pharmaceutical products, perfumery, marble, certain minerals, various articles of iron, steel, copper, aluminium and lead, hydrogen, rare gases and other non metals, oxides, chlorides, sulphates, carbonates, carbides, ethers, varnishes and lacquers, artificial waxes, leather and leather articles, wooden articles, paper products, textiles and clothing items, building material, glassware, ceramic products, electrical and other machinery, vehicles, aircraft, railway stock, tractors, sound equipment, furniture, toys, etc.

These proposals are contained in the following documents:

- 1984 - NTM/W/6/Rev.1/Add.2
- 1985 - NTM/W/12/Add.3
 - NTM/W/6/Rev.2/Add.3
 - NTM/W/6/Rev.2/Add.5
- 1986 - NTM/W/6/Rev.2/Add.6

It should also be noted that, in accordance with the Ministerial Declaration of 1982, adequate attention has been, and will continue to be given, to the need for action on quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff measures affecting products of particular export interest to developing countries. In particular, in respect of the five sectors identified for priority consideration (NTM/12, par. 20), South Africa has liberalised in the sectors of articles of leather, furskins, tableware and electronic products.

All remaining import restrictions are constantly reviewed in the light of domestic and external economic circumstances with a view to further liberalisation. It remains the declared policy objective of the South African Government to continue phasing out the remaining import control measures and, when justified, consideration is given to the replacement thereof by moderate tariff protection.