

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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## SOUTH AFRICAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

### Third Issue of Permits for Importation of Consumer Goods

The South African Government has submitted for the information of contracting parties the following press statement of 8 September 1964, announcing an issue of permits for certain additional imports.

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The Honourable the Minister of Economic Affairs announced today that he had decided to grant a third issue of permits for the importation of additional supplies of consumer goods and textiles during this year.

Dr. Diederichs said that the expansion of general economic activity which started in South Africa three years ago, has continued throughout the first seven months of 1964 and that he expected it to continue into 1965.

He added that, in order to enable commerce to meet the increased demands of the public and to supply buyers with the usual wide variety of merchandise to which they are accustomed, a further issue of general merchandise permits has been authorized so as to bring the 1964 level of issues up to 20 per cent above the 1963 level. This he considered should be adequate to meet all demands.

The Minister also expressed the view that, because of the present healthy stock position in the country, it might well be that certain importers would not require this additional allocation to augment their supplies for the Christmas trade. In order therefore, not to prejudice these importers, it had been decided that, if the additional allocation authorized by him was not taken up by an importer, it would be added to his initial 1965 allocation.

Dr. Diederichs continued: "I have also decided to grant an additional allocation of 10 per cent for the importation of textile piece-goods. Those importers who have drawn a reasonable proportion of their requirements from domestic sources, will probably not find it necessary to apply for this additional allocation. In those cases their 1965 allocations will be increased accordingly."

Importers who desire to take up their additional allocations now, should apply in the normal manner to the Director of Imports and Exports for the necessary import permits.

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