

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON  
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

I/2285

27 October 1964

Limited Distribution

TEMPORARY CHARGES ON IMPORTS INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM

The following communication dated 27 October 1964 has been received from the Permanent Representative in Geneva of the United Kingdom Government.

I have to inform you that in order to safeguard the external financial position of the United Kingdom and to correct its balance of payments and as part of their wider policies directed to the short term and longer term problems of the country's underlying economic situation, Her Majesty's Government have decided that it is necessary to restrict promptly, but temporarily, the quantity of imports coming into the United Kingdom. They are therefore invoking the provisions of Article XII of the General Agreement.

2. To this end a charge of 15 per cent ad valorem has been placed on all imports from all sources except those items listed in the annex to this note. The charge became operative on 27 October 1964. It is essentially temporary. It will be reduced as soon as the balance of payments situation permits and abolished at the earliest opportunity.

3. The United Kingdom authorities are aware that Article XII assumes that any necessary restraint on imports will be imposed by means of quantitative restrictions. However reduction in the country's balance of payments deficit required urgent action which could only have been delayed while the elaborate administrative machinery of import licensing was re-established and licences were allocated to importers. During such a period the flow of trade might well have been unnecessarily disrupted. It has been the conclusion of the United Kingdom authorities that insofar as such charges avoid the dangers of freezing the existing pattern of trade and allow it to find its own level according to the need of importers and to consumers' preferences, and insofar as traders both at home and overseas would be free to make their own arrangements such import charges are to be preferred.

4. Her Majesty's Government stand ready to consult with the CONTRACTING PARTIES under paragraph 4(a) of Article XII of the General Agreement at an early date. At that time, they will be prepared to answer all relevant questions concerning the nature of the United Kingdom's balance of payments difficulties and the policies which they intend to pursue with a view to their earliest possible solution.

ANNEX

List of Goods, According to Customs Tariff Headings  
Not Subject to the Temporary Charge on Imports

<u>Tariff Heading</u>	<u>Summary Description</u>
01.01 - 01.06	Live animals
02.01 - 02.06	Meat
03.01 - 03.03	Fish
04.01 - 04.06	Dairy produce, eggs and honey
05.01 - 05.15	Hair, bones, ivory and other animal products
07.01 - 07.06	Vegetables
08.01 - 08.13	Fruit and nuts
09.01 - 09.10	Coffee, tea, spices
10.01 - 10.07	Cereals
11.01 - 11.09	Flour, malt, starch
12.01 - 12.10	Oil seeds, roots, plants used for pharmacy etc.
13.01 - 13.03	Raw vegetable materials and extracts
14.01 - 14.05	Vegetable plaiting and caning materials etc.
15.01 - 15.17	Animal and vegetable fats and oils
16.01 - 16.05	Preparations of meat and fish
17.01 - 17.05	Sugar, syrup and sugar confectionary
18.01 - 18.06	Cocoa and chocolate
19.01 - 19.08	Preparations of cereals
20.01 - 20.07	Preparations of vegetables
21.01 - 21.07	Miscellaneous edible preparations
23.01 - 23.07	Food industry residues
24.01	Unmanufactured tobacco
25.01 - 25.32	Salt, sulphur, plaster, lime, cement
26.01 - 26.04	Metallic ores, slag and ash
27.01 - 27.16	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products
37.04 - 37.07	Exposed film and plates
40.01	Natural rubber
40.03 - 40.04	Reclaimed and waste rubber
41.01	Raw hides and skins
41.09	Leather parings and waste
43.01	Raw furskins
44.01 - 44.12	Wood, not planed or further prepared

<u>Tariff heading</u>	<u>Summary description</u>
45.01 - 45.02	Natural cork, waste cork
47.01 - 47.02	Paper making material (pulp and waste paper)
49.05 - 49.07	Maps, charts, plans, stamps, etc.
49.11.(B)(1)	Certain photographic prints
49.11.(C)(2)	Certain printed documents and diagrams
50.01 - 50.03	Silk worm cocoons, raw silk and silk waste
53.01	Sheeps or lambs wool not carded or combed
53.02	Other animal hair
53.03 - 53.04	Waste of sheeps or lambs wool
53.05	Sheeps or lambs wool, carded or combed
54.01 - 54.02	Unspun flax and ramie
55.01 - 55.04	Raw cotton, linters and waste
57.01 - 57.04	Unspun hemp, jute and other vegetable textile fibres
63.01 - 63.02	Old clothing and rags
71.02 - 71.10	Synthetic and natural precious and semi-precious stones and precious metals not fully manufactured
71.11	Waste and scrap of precious metals
72.01	Coin
73.02	Ferro-Alloys
73.03 - 73.05	Iron and steel waste, scrap, shot, grit and powder
74.01 - 74.02	Unwrought copper and master alloys
75.01	Unwrought nickel
75.05(A)	Unwrought nickel electroplating anodes
76.01	Unwrought aluminium and waste and scrap
77.01	Unwrought magnesium and waste and scrap
77.04(A)	Beryllium waste and scrap
ex-77.04(B)	Unwrought beryllium
78.01	Unwrought lead; lead waste and scrap
79.01	Unwrought zinc; zinc waste and scrap

Tariff heading

Summary description

80.01

Unwrought tin; tin waste and  
scrap

81.01 - 81.04

Tungsten, molybdenum, tantalum  
and other base metals

89.04

Vessels for breaking up

ex-92.12

Sound recordings not produced  
in quantity and **not** for  
general sale

99.01 - 99.06

Works of art, collectors pieces  
and antiques