



Eidgenössisches
Volkswirtschaftsdepartement
HANDELSABTEILUNG
HL 8
Département fédéral
de l'Economie publique
DIVISION DU COMMERCE

BERN, den
BERNE, le

17. September 1953

Vertraulich

An die Schweizerische Gesandtschaft,

Washington

West-Ost-Handel

LEGATION OF SWITZERLAND
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Neuer Berechnungen

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Herr Geschäftsträger,

Wir gestatten uns, Sie nachstehend über den Ausgang unserer West-Ost-Handelsgespräche noch abschliessend zu unterrichten. In der Beilage finden Sie ein Aide-Mémoire, welches die Amerikanische Botschaft dem Eidg. Politischen Departement übergeben hat. Die Amerikaner haben anlässlich einer Unterredung bei uns noch einen letzten Versuch zur weiteren Reduktion von Kontingenten unternommen, welchen wir aber abgewiesen haben. Als schliessliches Resultat der Gespräche kann also festgehalten werden:

- 1.) Am Hotz/Linder Agreement wird nichts geändert;
- 2.) die neu hinzugekommenen Positionen der Liste I werden nach den gleichen Grundsätzen wie diejenigen der frühern Liste I behandelt. [Ueber die einzelnen Quotenregelungen usw. sind Sie durch Ueberlassung unserer Ausfuhrweisung vom 25. Juni 1953 unterrichtet worden].
- 3.) Für einzelne Positionen der Liste II wurden Quoten festgesetzt, welche die Aufrechterhaltung unserer normalen Wirtschaftsbeziehungen mit dem Osten gestatten.
- 4.) China wird von uns im Rahmen des Ostblocks behandelt, wobei allerdings festgestellt wurde, dass der "courant normal" für schweizerische Ausfuhren nach China sehr gering sei.

Wie Sie dem Aide-Mémoire entnehmen, wünschen die Amerikaner, dass wir den Transit ausländischer Waren durch die Schweiz bzw. die Umadressierung während der Durchfuhr durch die Schweiz einer Kontrolle unterstellen. Die gesetzlichen Grundlagen hiezu müssen erst geschaffen werden und sind nicht ganz einfach zu formulieren. Wir sind gegenwärtig damit beschäftigt, die Technik und die gesetzlichen Grundlagen für eine solche Transitregelung zu studieren.

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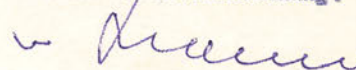


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Der britische Botschafter hat gleichzeitig Herrn Bundesrat Petitpierre geschrieben; das Schreiben liegt bei. Wir haben festgestellt, dass es sich hierbei nur darum handeln wird, den Engländern und Franzosen zu erklären, dass wir uns mit den Amerikanern darüber geeinigt hätten, in einzelnen Fällen, in denen wir einen besonderen Verdacht hegen würden, einen End Use Check im Bestimmungsland zu veranlassen. Eine lückenlose Durchführung von End Use Checks komme für uns aus Neutralitätsgründen nicht in Frage. Ferner mache sich derjenige Schweizer, welcher wissentlich eine Ware nach einem andern Lande versendet, als er in der Ausfuhrdeklaration angibt, gemäss den schweizerischen Zollbestimmungen strafbar. Wir werden daher in nächster Zeit Herrn Botschafter Scrivener in diesem Sinne schriftlich antworten.

Genehmigen Sie, Herr Geschäftsträger, die Versicherung unserer vorzüglichsten Hochachtung.

Eidgenössisches Volkswirtschaftsdepartement
Der Direktor der Handelsabteilung:



Schaffner

2 Beilagen.

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Certain countries, among them the United States, and including nearly all countries of the free world, are cooperating to embargo as nearly as possible shipments of certain items to the Soviet bloc. All the countries concerned have agreed after careful examination that each item on this embargo list would contribute directly to the Russian war potential.

Other items, which are also extremely significant for military purposes, have been subjected to quantitative restrictions by the same countries of the free world.

Our motive for this action is concern for our own security, and the security of the western world. We believe that what serves to promote that security is also in the Swiss national interest.

We are disappointed therefore that, after hearing a full exposition of the weighty reasons which led to the inclusion of each of the items in these lists, Switzerland has found it necessary to establish quotas for some of the embargo items, and to fix quotas for other items which are greater in some cases than total controlled exports from all other cooperating free world countries to the Soviet bloc of the same items during 1952. These quotas put Switzerland in the position of principal legal supplier of such items to the Soviet bloc.

We earnestly hope, therefore, that Switzerland will agree to try to limit actual shipments to amounts less than the quotas which have been fixed.

The institution of a transit control system by Switzerland would be welcomed by us. Such controls would further Swiss neutrality, and Swiss action on such controls taken before the coordinated transit control plan of other western countries is effective would seem to be in Swiss interests. Switzerland has already set the pattern for such action by institution of the import certificate system before it was generally adopted. Most western countries, including the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Denmark, Norway and Japan have already instituted some form of transit control.

We trust, therefore, that Switzerland will soon find it possible to establish a transit control system, such as has already been informally outlined to us.

We do not regard the discussions which have taken place on this subject between us, or any action which Switzerland may take as a result of them, as subject to our acceptance or rejection. We prefer to regard them as a mutually helpful exchange of information in the interests of both countries, and of the larger community of the western world. It is in this sense, therefore, that we wish to reserve our right to be able to continue these discussions at an appropriate time.

American Legation,
Bern, September 9, 1953.

DH:cm

Copy

(26/40/96/53)

British Embassy,
Berne.
September 2, 1953.

Monsieur le Conseiller Fédéral,

On instructions from my Government I have the honour to request Your Excellency to inform me whether the Swiss Government would be prepared to agree to an extension of the import and export control system which they now enforce.

Her Majesty's Government would welcome a decision on the part of the Swiss Government to introduce a system, known as the Delivery Verification System, whereby an exporter supplying a Swiss customer could, in individual cases which would be determined by the Government of the exporting country, obtain on application made by the importer to the authorities of the importing country a certificate to the effect that the goods in question had entered Swiss territory and come under customs control. These would in general be goods in respect of which a Swiss Import Certificate had been or purported to have been issued.

Further, I am to remind Your Excellency that a system of import certificates and delivery verification is already in force in a number of countries and to suggest that the Swiss Government might find it to their advantage to make use of the facilities thus afforded to assure themselves that the system of export controls in force in Switzerland is effective and that goods for which export licences are granted are not diverted to other than the declared destinations.

I am authorised by His Excellency the French Ambassador and by the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States of America to state that they have received instructions from their respective Governments to associate themselves with me in making this approach to Your Excellency's Government. Representatives of the three Embassies would welcome an opportunity of discussing the subject of export and import controls in greater detail with representatives of the Swiss Government.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my high consideration.

signed : P.S. SCRIVENER

Son Excellence
Monsieur le Conseiller Fédéral
Max Petitpierre,
Palais Fédéral,
B e r n e .