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         L o n d o n
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bern   25.6.1966   09h15   t.lo.   kabel nr. 141

rhodesien. im hinblick auf parlamentarische anfrage betreffend
schweizerische importe aus rhodesien, die foreign secretary be-
kanntlich 27. juni zu beantworten gedenkt, ueberreichten wir,
um irriger und uebertriebener darstellung rechtzeitig vorzubeu-
gen, gestern geschaeftstraeger keeble und botschaftsrat purves
folgende von handelsabteilung zusammen mit uns vorbereitete
definition des ''courant normal'' .

quote

1. the ''courant normal'' is based on the quantities imported
in previous years, i.e. on imports made during a period of
reference.

2. each importer is entitled, on the basis of documentary proof,
to bring the same quantities of goods across the customs border
as in the period of reference.

3. experience has shown that imports of raw materials and agri-
cultural products effected by individual importers vary consid-
erably from year to year. it would, therefore, be arbitrary
to take only one calendar year as reference period. in the pre-
sent case importers may choose between the years 1964 and 1965.
                                                          ./.

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4. in order to comply with their selling possibilities and with
the necessity to keep certain stocks, importers are free to
spread their imports - in accordance with such needs - over the
whole calendar year. once their quotas are used they are not
entitled to obtain further import licences for the rest of the
year.

5. on the grounds of general regulations in force since a long
time, importers have to present their licence as a n d w h e n
t h e i r   g o o d s   c r o s s   t h e   s w i s s   c u s t o m s
b o r d e r . it is, in this context, irrelevant whether the goods
are immediately cleared through customs or put in a private bonded
warehouse in switzerland to be cleared through customs later on.
otherwise, an importer could buy any big quantities abroad and put
these goods in his private bonded warehouse without having an im-
port licence.

6. dispatching the goods to a private bonded warehouse within
the swiss territory gives the importer the possibility to clear
them through customs at a later stage, i.e. when they go into
manufacture. this method is in particular made use of if the
goods are subject to high customs duties or high fiscal charges.
tobacco is a most typical example and importers have applied
this method for many years.

7. the figures of customs returns have to be comparable with the
figures of trade statistics. for this reason t r a d e
s t a t i s t i c s are based on the quantities of goods
c l e a r e d   t h r o u g h   c u s t o m s . therefore,
the figures for goods brought to a private bonded warehouse
will not be reflected in the trade statistics when those goods
cross the border but only a t the moment when they are cleared
through customs.

./.

8. as a logical consequence of the foregoing the figures for goods which have been cleared through customs to not necessarily conform to the figures for goods having crossed the customs border and the figures in the trade statistics are not necessarily correspondent to the figures for goods which have crossed the customs border. with regard to tobacco this difference is considerable.

9. in conclusion, it may be stressed that the circumstances outlined above have no influence whatever on the fact that import quotas for all goods including tobacco are calculated in strict accordance with the quantities of goods brought over the swiss customs border in the reference period.

10. it may finally be added that the ''courant normal'' is a notion of long standing in swiss trade policy.

unquote

von ueberreichung entsprechender statistischer unterlagen haben wir, obwohl wir auch danach befragt wurden, bewusst abgesehen. ueberlassen euch zu entscheiden, ob ihr es fuer noetig haltet, gleiche information auch euerseits an euere gespraechspartner weiterzuleiten oder ob dies - was wir eigentlich aus taktischen ueberlegungen vorziehen wuerden - unterbleiben kann. naeherer bericht folgt mit montagkurier.

politisches