

BERN 25.6.1966 09H15

KABEL NR. 141

Fw

RHODESIEN. IM HINBLICK AUF PARLAMENTARISCHE ANFRAGE BETREFFEND SCHWEIZERISCHE IMPORTE AUS RHODESIEN, DIE FOREIGN SECRETARY BEKANNTLICH 27. JUNI ZU BEANTWORTEN GEDENKT, UEBERREICHTEN WIR, UM IRRIGER UND UEBERTRIEBENER DARSTELLUNG RECHTZEITIG VORZUBEUGEN, 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 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS EFFECTED BY INDIVIDUAL IMPORTERS VARY CONSIDERABLY FROM YEAR TO YEAR. IT WOULD, THEREFORE, BE ARBITRARY TO TAKE ONLY ONE CALENDAR YEAR AS REFERENCE PERIOD. IN THE PRESENT CASE IMPORTERS MAY CHOOSE BETWEEN THE YEARS 1964 AND 1965.



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 AND WHEN THEIR GOODS CROSS THE SWISS CUSTOMS BORDER. 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 IMPORT 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 TRADE STATISTICS ARE BASED ON THE QUANTITIES OF GOODS CLEARED THROUGH CUSTOMS. 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 AT 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 DO 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.

KORREKTUR ZU:

3. LETZTE ZEILE: 1964 AND 1965.

7. ZEILE 5: TO A PRIVATE BONDED WAREHOUSE..

25.6.66 10H30 +? R MCI +? AWS ++.65+