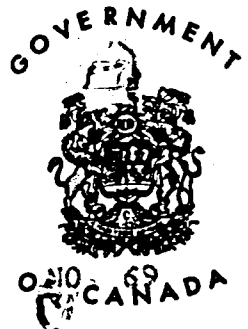


D. Gauran



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4, 1957

THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT CANADA WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS WHICH ARE TO BE CONDUCTED WITH SWITZERLAND UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE IN GENEVA COMMENCING IN MAY 1958. THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO BE HELD IN ORDER THAT SWITZERLAND MAY BECOME A MEMBER OF THE GATT.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND SWITZERLAND WILL BE RATHER LIMITED IN SCOPE. THEY WILL HOWEVER PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FIRST TIME UNDER GATT TO SEEK SOME TARIFF CONCESSIONS FROM SWITZERLAND, WHICH IS ALREADY A VALUABLE MARKET FOR WHEAT AND A NUMBER OF OTHER CANADIAN PRODUCTS.

THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE HELD ON THE BASIS OF A MODERNIZED SWISS CUSTOMS TARIFF WHICH HAS BEEN DRAWN UP, BUT NOT YET BROUGHT INTO EFFECT. DETAILED INFORMATION REGARDING THE NEW SWISS TARIFF ON INDIVIDUAL PRODUCTS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE, OTTAWA.

CANADIAN BUSINESS FIRMS AND OTHERS INTERESTED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT THEIR VIEWS TO THE GOVERNMENT, IF POSSIBLE BY JANUARY 20. REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING TARIFF CONCESSIONS THAT CANADA MIGHT SEEK TO OBTAIN FROM SWITZERLAND SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE RELATIONS BRANCH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING THE CANADIAN TARIFF SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE TARIFF SECTION, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

CANADA AND SWITZERLAND EXCHANGE MOST-FAVOURLED-NATION TARIFF TREATMENT UNDER A TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP, COMMERCE AND RECIPROCAL ESTABLISHMENT OF 1855 BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND SWITZERLAND, TO WHICH CANADA ADHERES. HOWEVER, THIS TREATY DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR THE LEGAL BINDING OF TARIFF RATES.