

*Sir Austen Chamberlain to the Spanish Ambassador*

*Foreign Office, S.W. 1, April 4, 1927.*

Your Excellency,

I HAVE the honour to state that, it being the desire of His Britannic Majesty's Government in Great Britain and the Spanish Government that trade between the two countries should as far as possible not be impeded by any kind of prohibitions or restrictions, His Britannic Majesty's Government in Great Britain, so long as the Anglo-Spanish Commercial Treaty remains in force, will in general not impose any prohibitions or restrictions on importation, exportation, consumption, storage or use, except on one or other of the following grounds, it being understood that such exceptional prohibitions or restrictions are extended at the same time and in the same way to other foreign countries in which similar conditions prevail:—

- (a) Public safety;
- (b) Sanitary grounds, or for protection of animals and plants against diseases and pests;
- (c) In respect of weapons, ammunition and war material and, under exceptional circumstances, also in respect of other materials needed in war;
- (d) For the purpose of prohibiting the importation of articles where such prohibition is imposed under the Patent Laws of the respective countries or the laws relating to the marking of imported goods;
- (e) For the purpose of extending to foreign goods prohibitions and restrictions which are or may hereafter be imposed by internal legislation upon the production, sale, consumption, or forwarding in Great Britain and Northern Ireland of goods of the same kind produced in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, including, in particular, goods which are or may be the subject of a State monopoly or similar arrangement;
- (f) For the purpose of facilitating Customs administration or safeguarding the revenue;
- (g) In respect of synthetic organic dye-stuffs and colours or colouring matter containing them, as well as organic intermediate products used in the manufacture of such dye-stuffs, colours or colouring matter, the importation of which is prohibited by virtue of the Dye-stuffs (Import Regulation) Act, 1920.

2. In the event of His Britannic Majesty's Government in Great Britain considering it necessary, on grounds other than those above enumerated, to impose a new prohibition or restriction on the import, export, consumption, storage or use of an article which is of substantial interest to Spanish trade, they will give the Spanish Government three weeks' notice of their intention, and will give sympathetic consideration to any representations which may be made by the Spanish Government in respect of such prohibition or restriction.

3. In pursuance of the earnest desire of both Governments to refrain from measures impeding the maintenance and normal development of commerce between the two countries, His Britannic Majesty's Government in Great Britain declare that any restriction adopted will be made operative in such a way as to afford to trade between the two countries all facilities which are compatible with the object aimed at in imposing the restriction. In particular, interference with the established channels of import and distribution will be avoided so far as may be; licensing formalities will be made as little burdensome as possible, applications for licences will be dealt with expeditiously, and any licences issued will be given a reasonable period of validity.

I have, &c.

AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN.