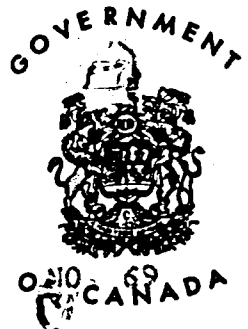


D. Gauran



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.

SWITZERLAND MAINTAINS RELATIVELY FEW IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AND DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST DOLLAR IMPORTS. IN 1956 CANADIAN EXPORTS TO SWITZERLAND AMOUNTED TO \$34 MILLION AND IMPORTS FROM SWITZERLAND TO \$22 MILLION. CANADA IS ONE OF SWITZERLAND'S PRINCIPAL SUPPLIERS OF WHEAT AND A NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS. SWITZERLAND ALSO PROVIDES A SMALL BUT REGULAR MARKET FOR A WIDE RANGE OF CANADIAN MANUFACTURED GOODS. ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF CANADA'S TOTAL IMPORTS FROM SWITZERLAND CONSIST OF CLOCKS, WATCHES AND PARTS. MOST OTHER IMPORTS FROM SWITZERLAND ARE SIMILARLY IN THE CONSUMER GOODS CATEGORY.

THE RATES OF DUTY IN THE CURRENT AND NEW SWISS CUSTOMS TARIFFS RESPECTIVELY ON SOME SELECTED ITEMS OF INTEREST TO CANADA ARE AS FOLLOWS:

COMMODITY	RATE OF DUTY		
	CURRENT TARIFF	DRAFT TARIFF	
WHEAT, NOT DENATURED	IN SWISS FRANCS PER 100 KG.	3.00	3.00
	IN CENTS PER BUSHEL	18	18
PEAS, WHOLE, DRIED	IN SWISS FRANCS PER 100 KG.	0.90	0.90
	IN CENTS PER 100 POUNDS	9	9
FUR SKINS, UNDRESSED	IN SWISS FRANCS PER 100 KG.	0.50	0.50
	IN CENTS PER 100 POUNDS	5	5
FUR SKIN, DRESSED	IN SWISS FRANCS PER 100 KG.	30.00	45.00
	IN CENTS PER 100 POUNDS	305	457
ASBESTOS, CRUDE	IN SWISS FRANCS PER 100 KG.	0.30	0.05
	IN CENTS PER 100 POUNDS	3	1/2
SYNTHETIC RESINS, CRUDE	IN SWISS FRANCS PER 100 KG.	3.00	3.00 AND 15.00
	IN CENTS PER 100 POUNDS	30	30 AND 150
ALUMINUM, PRIMARY	IN SWISS FRANCS PER 100 KG.	65.00	65.00
	IN CENTS PER 100 POUNDS	660	660
COPPER WIRE IN COILS	IN SWISS FRANCS PER 100 KG.	5.00	8.00
	IN CENTS PER 100 POUNDS	50	80
SYNTHETIC RUBBER	IN SWISS FRANCS PER 100 KG.	0.50	0.20
	IN CENTS PER 100 POUNDS	5	2
CALCULATING MACHINES	IN SWISS FRANCS PER 100 KG.	300.00 TO 800.00	450.00 TO 900.00
	IN DOLLARS PER 100 POUNDS	30.50 TO 81.30	45.70 TO 91.45