

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION BY AUSTRALIA INVOKING THE DECISION OF 24 OCTOBER 1953<sup>1</sup>  
(PRODUCTS OF PAPUA-NEW GUINEA) AS AMENDED BY THE DECISION OF  
13 NOVEMBER 1956<sup>2</sup> - MUSHROOMS

THE FOLLOWING NOTIFICATION CONCERNING PROPOSED ACTION IN RESPECT OF FRESH, CHILLED AND FROZEN MUSHROOMS BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PURSUANT TO THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DECISION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT. IT IS CIRCULATED TO CONTRACTING PARTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 2 OF THAT DECISION AND THEIR ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO THE PROCEDURES SET OUT THEREIN.

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE DECISION OF 24 OCTOBER 1953, AS AMENDED BY THE DECISION OF 13 NOVEMBER 1956, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA NOTIFIES THE CONTRACTING PARTIES THAT IT PROPOSES TO TAKE ACTION UNDER THE DECISION IN RESPECT OF FRESH, CHILLED AND FROZEN MUSHROOMS.

2. IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO TAKE THIS ACTION FOLLOWING AN INQUIRY AND REPORT ON THE AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY BY THE AUSTRALIAN TARIFF BOARD. THE PRESENT AND PROPOSED DUTIES ON THE PRODUCTS CONCERNED ARE:

TARIFF ITEM	TYPE OF MUSHROOM.	IMPORT DUTIES		
		PAPUA/ NEW GUINEA RATE	BRITISH PREFERENTIAL RATE	GENERAL RATE
<u>PRESENT DUTIES</u>				
ex 07.01.900	FRESH OR CHILLED	FREE	\$0.001 PER LB.	\$0.002 PER LB.
ex 07.02.900	PRESERVED BY FREEZING	\$0.001 PER LB.	\$0.001 PER LB.	\$0.002 PER LB.
<u>PROPOSED DUTIES</u>				
07.01.300	FRESH OR CHILLED	FREE	35%	35%
07.02.200	PRESERVED BY FREEZING	FREE	FREE	\$0.001 PER LB.
		(WITH A POSSIBLE INCREASE AT SOME FUTURE DATE TO:		
		FREE	35%	35%)

<sup>1</sup>BISD, SECOND SUPPLEMENT, PAGE 18.

<sup>2</sup>BISD, FIFTH SUPPLEMENT, PAGE 34.

3. THE PROPOSED GENERAL RATES OF 35 PER CENT AD VALOREM WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE TARIFF BOARD AS HAVING AN INCIDENCE SIMILAR TO A SPECIFIC DUTY OF \$0.80 PER GALLON WHICH IT RECOMMENDED (AND WHICH IS BEING ADOPTED) FOR IMPORTS OF CANNED MUSHROOMS. THE BOARD RECEIVED NO EVIDENCE OF ANY IMPORTS OF FRESH OR CHILLED MUSHROOMS BUT DID RECEIVE EVIDENCE THAT IMPORTS OF FROZEN MUSHROOMS (FROM TAIWAN) HAD RECENTLY COMMENCED. IMPORTS OF FRESH, FROZEN OR CHILLED MUSHROOMS HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN SEPARATELY RECORDED IN OFFICIAL AUSTRALIAN IMPORT STATISTICS.

4. PROVISION FOR DUTY-FREE ENTRY OF THESE PRODUCTS FROM PAPUA/NEW GUINEA IS NOT EXPECTED TO HAVE ANY IMMEDIATE PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

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CONTRACTING PARTIES WISHING TO ENTER INTO CONSULTATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE DECISION SHOULD COMMUNICATE WITH THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WITHOUT DELAY AND, AT THE SAME TIME, INFORM ME.

O. LONG