



DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
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From the Minister for Trade

Lord Gowrie
Minister for the Arts
Office of Arts and Libraries
Old Admiralty Buildings
Whitehall
London SW1A 2AZ

7 October 1983

Dear Grey,

*on 11/10
f-a-*

Thank you for your letter of 9 August about the approaches you received from the British Library and from the Standing Conference of National and University Libraries over imports of books from Argentina.

As you know, the Prime Minister decided that the present import licence waiver operated by Customs and Excise in respect of newspapers and periodicals should be widened to cover books other than those imported for resale or trade advertising material. The implementation of this exemption was announced in a Press Notice last week and I enclose a copy with this letter. I am sure this should end the problems which these organisations have been experiencing over importing information from Argentina without the need to allow trade in books, which I believe would leave us wide open to the numerous claims for special consideration which I mentioned in my minute to the Prime Minister.

Point 34
We remain firmly committed to seeking a fully reciprocal lifting of all remaining trade sanctions. But while the Argentines continue their policy of non-co-operation the general import ban must stay in place.

I am copying this to Geoffrey Howe, Keith Joseph, Arthur Cockfield, Barney Hayhoe, Robert Armstrong and No. 10.

*V
ms.*

Paul

PAUL CHANNON

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IMPORT OF BOOKS FROM ARGENTINA

In the absence of action by Argentina to end trade sanctions against Britain and to lift commercial and economic restrictions against British interests there, the general ban on imports into the UK of goods exported from Argentina must be maintained. However, the Government has decided that the exemption which already allows import of newspapers and periodicals will now also cover books other than trade advertising material or imports for resale.

This applies equally to such books currently held by Customs and Excise and arrangements are being made for their release. An individual import licence is not required for the books covered by the exemption.

Announcing this exemption, Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said today:

"The Government has repeatedly made clear that it favours the reciprocal lifting of all remaining trade sanctions. The Presidency of the European Community and the Commission have on several occasions proposed to the Argentine authorities discussion on the normalisation of economic and commercial relations. Regrettably the Argentines have not so far indicated any willingness to co-operate in removing their restrictions. In these circumstances it is the Government's policy to maintain the ban imposed on April 7 1982 on the importation of Argentine goods.

"However, in view of the unique considerations which apply to books, the Government has decided to extend the exemption to books provided they are neither imported for resale nor are trade advertising material."

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