

TRADE: IMPORTATION OF WATCHES

Exchange of memoranda at Washington April 22, 1946

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Swiss Aide-Memoire

LEGATION OF SWITZERLAND

WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 22, 1946

The Legation of Switzerland wishes to refer to recent conversations which have taken place between officials of the Governments of the United States and Switzerland in regard to a number of problems affecting the importation into the United States of Swiss watches, watch movements and parts, watch-making machinery and jewel bearings.

Reference was made in these conversations to the fact that the United States watch manufacturing industry had during the last few years been converted largely to war production, and in contrast to many other industries similarly converted, the absence of American production had been largely compensated by imports of Swiss watches. The fact that as large an accumulated civilian demand did not exist in the case of watches as in other commodities, therefore, appeared likely to create certain difficulties for the American watch manufacturing industry during its period of reconversion to civilian production. It was also recognized that, by the terms of the Trade Agreement between the United States and Switzerland concluded in 1936,¹ no quantitative limitations were to be placed by the United States on the importation of watches and watch movements into the United States. It was further recognized that this provision of the Trade Agreement should not be allowed to operate in a manner to interfere with the reconversion of the United States watch manufacturing industry. Taking into account such considerations as the foregoing, the Legation of Switzerland makes the declarations set forth below:

¹ Agreement of Jan. 9, 1936 (EAS 90, *ante*, p. 926).