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## PROHIBITION OF TEA IMPORTS

The Minister for Defence, Foreign Affairs and Trade, Sir Maori Kiki, has announced his intention of placing a total prohibition on imports of tea in small packets and containers as from 1 September this year.

Sir Maori Kiki said it was his intention to totally prohibit the importation of tea in containers less than 10 kg net weight.

This action has been taken in the interest of greater self-reliance—primarily to transfer

the packaging profit to local industry and to provide additional local employment.

Sir Maori Kiki's office also said that it has become clear that the Papua New Guinea tea industry can produce a satisfactory product and that it had found it possible to compete at price levels set by imported tea.

Sir Maori Kiki said that a series of products and packaged goods now being imported would be progressively examined to see if similar action would be desirable.