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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB95/02468 (22) International Filing Date: 19 October 1995 (19.10.95) (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): IMPERIAL TOBACCO LIMITED [GB/GB]; P.O. Box 244, Southville, Bristol BS99 7UJ (GB). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): NEVETT, Robert [GB/GB]; 4 Bracton Drive, Whitchurch, Bristol BS14 9QW (GB). HENNEVELD, Clifford, Hendrik [GB/GB]; 52 High Street, Oldland Common, Bristol BS15 6TL (GB). MATTHEWS, Keith, Alan [GB/GB]; 10 Horwood Court, Longwell Green, Bristol BS15 7AE (GB). CHARD, Brian, Chester [GB/GB]; 4 School Cottages, Nortonhawfield, Nr Pensford BS18 4HD (GB). (74) Agent: WILKINSON, Stephen, John; Stevens, Hewlett & Perkins, 1 St. Augustines Place, Bristol BS1 4UD (GB).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, MW, SD, SZ, UG), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: A PROCESS FOR TREATING TOBACCO (57) Abstract Tobacco is treated to cause its expansion by a process which comprises the steps of subjecting it to a reduced pressure of not greater than 7 kPa, impregnating the cell structure of the tobacco with isopentane vapour at temperatures of 70 to 90 °C and maintaining the tobacco in contact with the vapour at a pressure of at least 400 kPa for up to 30 minutes, evacuating the excess vapour, the pressure change being effected adiabatically, treating the impregnated tobacco with steam to expand the tobacco cell structure and then subjecting the expanded tobacco to vacuum reordering. Expansion levels achieved by the process are similar to and may be greater than those achieved using conventional expansion processes.		