

CONTRACTING PARTIES
Fourth Session

DISTRIBUTION OF DOCUMENTS

For the sake of a consistent policy and also for economy, the Secretariat would like to have a decision on distribution of documents.

A) Scope of distribution:-

At the present time documents (with the exception of those marked Limited C) go to all governments*, several specialized agencies and the United Nations. In addition, unrestricted documents are sent also to several international and miscellaneous organizations and libraries and to the United Nations Information Centres in various capitals. The former category (Limited B) includes all CP/ documents, summary records and most CP.3/ and CP.4/ documents.

Limited C documents are sent to contracting parties and acceding governments and this category is reserved for documents concerning the tariff negotiations (TN), working party papers and papers for meetings of the Contracting Parties of a more confidential but still not secret character, such as some items connected with Articles XII, XIV and XVIII.

The most restricted category is of course "SECRET". These are numbered and one copy is sent to each contracting party.

The number of copies at present distributed is as follows:

Unrestricted:	453 English	182 French
Limited B:	371 English	144 French
Limited C:	309 English	107 French

* In addition to the contracting parties, Ancey acceding governments, and other governments participating in the 1950 negotiations, the following: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Byelo-Russia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Thailand, Transjordan, Trieste, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

The Secretariat suggest that Limited B distribution be narrowed to include only contracting parties, Annecy acceding governments, governments which have expressed their intention to participate in the 1950 tariff negotiations, and such other governments which, having in the past received Limited B distribution, request that documents continue to be sent to them. The Executive Secretary would circularise the governments concerned in order to ascertain their wishes.

B) Method of distribution:

It appears that some delegations are still experiencing some difficulty in receiving their documents. Most non-European countries have provided, in response to requests of the Secretariat, addresses in Europe to which documents can be sent and have given these addresses the necessary instructions for forwarding by air pouch. There are still some countries*, however, which do not have a forwarding address in Europe and among the forwarding addresses there appear to be some which do not have the proper instructions for forwarding. It will be appreciated:

- (a) if all non-European countries will designate an address in Europe to which documents should be sent;
- (b) if instructions can be given to ensure the prompt forwarding of such documents;
- (c) if all countries which are having difficulty in receiving their documents properly can indicate a single exact address to which such documents should be sent to ensure prompt delivery.

* Canada, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Korea, Liberia, Nicaragua.