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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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# DISPOSAL OF COMMODITY SURPLUSES

## Reports by Contracting Parties[1]

By letter of 3 October 1961, the Government of the Netherlands has transmitted to the secretariat the following information in response to the invitation contained in document L/1503.

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The Netherlands Government have no stocks which could be termed surplus. There is no disposal of strategic stocks. As regards the matter "disposal of stocks otherwise held by Government Agencies" the Netherlands Government think that they can answer in the negative to the question of whether any commodity surpluses have been disposed of since the seventeenth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

Explanation

In the Netherlands notification to the GATT about subsidy measures (see GATT L/1029, reviewed in GATT 1/1131/Add.1) the operation of the Netherlands agricultural policy with respect to the price stabilization of the most important agricultural products has been explained. The stocks which occur in some periods of the year as a result of this policy are disposed of through normal trade, as soon as the supply diminishes and the demand increases. The buffer function of this action is designed to have a regulating effect on the market and the sale of stocks in this framework does not come within the above mentioned questionnaire.

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[1] The reports received from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States are contained in document L/1550.