

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/1949

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Limited Distribution

STATE TRADING

Notification by Contracting Parties

Contracting parties will recall that, in accordance with the provisions of Article XVII, countries which have recourse to State trading in the sense of paragraph 1 of that Article shall notify the CONTRACTING PARTIES of the products imported into or exported from their territories by such enterprises. To this end, the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their twelfth session in 1957 established procedures for such notifications and a questionnaire designed to achieve a standardized reporting system (BISD, 6S, page 23). Subsequently, the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their sixteenth session in 1960 accepted a recommendation by the Panel on Subsidies and State Trading for a new questionnaire (BISD, 9S, pages 179-185). All notifications so far received in response to the new questionnaire have been circulated to contracting parties in document L/1014 and addenda.

In reviewing the arrangements for the submission of notifications on State trading established earlier, the CONTRACTING PARTIES, at their twentieth session in 1962, decided that contracting parties should report annually with the proviso that this system should follow from a sound basis and that a complete review of the notifications should be carried out every three years.

The procedures adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES (L/1872/Add.1) are as follows:

1. contracting parties should be invited to submit at the end of January 1963, and subsequently every third year, a new and full response to the new questionnaire;
2. the Council of Representatives shall, during 1963, take whatever steps it considers necessary to examine the adequacy of the notifications thus submitted, including the possibility of re-establishing the Panel or setting up a working party to conduct such an examination;
3. contracting parties should be invited at the end of January 1964, and in each subsequent year until the next three-yearly review, to submit notifications of the changes which have occurred in their State trading measures since their notification in 1963;
4. all notifications shall be circulated by the secretariat to all contracting parties.

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In accordance with the above procedures, contracting parties are invited to submit to the secretariat by 31 January 1963 a new and full response to the existing questionnaire on State trading (BISD, 9S, page 184). It would assist the Council in complying with paragraph 2 of the procedures if contracting parties could provide information covering the period ending 31 December 1962.

The notifications received in response to this request will be circulated to contracting parties as addenda to this document.

