

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/3408
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CONSULAR FORMALITIES

Note by the Secretariat

At the twenty-fifth session, after a review of progress toward abolition of consular formalities on the part of some of the contracting parties which still maintain such formalities, it was decided that the Council should examine the whole question of consular formalities in a more substantial manner before the twenty-sixth session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

To this effect the secretariat asked the following countries still maintaining consular formalities which had previously been asked to report to submit information again on progress achieved:

Brazil	Peru
Dominican Republic	Portugal
Haiti	Turkey
Nicaragua	Uruguay

The information received on consular formalities in response to this request is reproduced below.

It will be noted that the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their twenty-sixth session requested the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products (SR.26/7), on recommendation of the Council (L/3350), to deal with the matter since it was also under examination in that Committee. Since then, Working Group 2 on non-tariff barriers has suggested some possible solutions (Spec(70)35) which the Committee will take note of at its next meeting. At a later stage the Committee will probably consider all problems related to consular formalities.

PORTUGAL

Despite the substantial progress already achieved by the Portuguese Government in this matter, it has not been possible to eliminate the formalities still applied, in view of the fact that the requirement of these formalities is closely connected with the particular structure of Portugal's customs legislation.

TURKEY

No modifications have taken place as compared with the situation described in document L/3089 and the list appended to document L/3090.

With regard to the bill to amend the existing provisions pertaining to procedure and the legalization of certificates of origin referred to in document L/3089, I wish to inform you that this bill is still under consideration by Parliament.

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