

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

W.8/21
15 October 1953

Special Distribution

Working Party 5 on Valuation, Nationality
and Consular Formalities

CONSULAR FORMALITIES

Note on the Reports submitted by Contracting Parties

The reports received by the secretariat from contracting parties on the steps taken towards the abolition of consular formalities have been reproduced in addenda to document L/92. The following paragraphs provide a brief summary of those replies:

1. The following governments have stated that they have no regulations requiring consular invoices or consular visas:

Australia	Greece
Austria	India
Belgium	Netherlands
Canada	New Zealand
Czechoslovakia	Norway
Denmark	Pakistan
Finland	Southern Rhodesia
Germany	South Africa

2. Several governments have reported that they do not require consular invoices or consular visas except in very special circumstances, namely:

Ceylon	Sweden
Indonesia	United Kingdom
Italy	

The United Kingdom Government have instituted a review of the requirements in force with a view to their withdrawal.

3. Among the governments which have reported, Haiti, France and the United States are the only ones which maintain any extensive system of consular formalities. The Haitian Government express their hope that the development of other sources of public revenue may enable them to relax present requirements in accordance with the recommendation of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The French Government have reduced and simplified their requirements both before and since the entry into force of the General Agreement, and acknowledge that further reductions and simplifications should be introduced. The United States

Government consider that their present regulations conform to the standard practices recommended by the CONTRACTING PARTIES and report that progress towards the elimination of the requirements for consular invoices has been made during the past year; under the Customs Simplification Act the Secretary of the Treasury is enabled to study the utility of certified invoices and, if feasible, to eliminate them.

4. The following governments have submitted no report:

Brazil
Burma
Chile
Cuba

Dominican Republic
Nicaragua
Peru
Turkey