

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

L/1948

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Limited Distribution

SUBSIDIES

Notification by Contracting Parties

Contracting parties will recall that in accordance with the provisions of Article XVI, countries which maintain subsidies having the effects described in paragraph 1 of the Article, are required to notify in writing the nature and extent of the subsidization. For this purpose, the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their fourth session in 1950, established procedures for such notifications and at their ninth session in 1955 adopted a questionnaire with a view to achieve a standardized reporting system. Subsequently, the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their sixteenth session in 1960 accepted a recommendation by the Panel on Subsidies and State Trading for a revised questionnaire (BISD, 9S, pages 193-194). All the notifications so far received in response to the revised questionnaire have been circulated to contracting parties in documents L/1328 and addenda; L/1597 and addenda; and L/1837 and addendum 1.

In reviewing the arrangements for the submission of notifications on subsidies established earlier, the CONTRACTING PARTIES, at their twentieth session in 1962, decided that, in future, only changes in subsidy measures need be reported 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 revised 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 subsidy 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 subsidies (BISD, 9S, page 193). 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.

