

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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CONTRACTING PARTIES
Twenty-Third Session

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CONSULAR FORMALITIES

Addendum

SPAIN

The following communication has been received from the representative of Spain. It will be noted that the Government of Spain calls attention to its previous reports on the formalities required in connexion with importation and reaffirms its view that Spain's requirements comply with the general lines of the recommendation made in 1962 by the CONTRACTING PARTIES concerning the abolition of consular formalities in accordance with the Recommendation of 1952, as amended in 1957.

With reference to item No. 15 of the provisional agenda of the twenty-third session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to GATT, on the consular formalities still applied by some governments of the contracting parties, the secretariat has published document L/2563 in which Spain is included among those countries that still apply consular formalities.

At the meeting of the Council on 14 March 1966 I replied to the request of the Chairman for information from the representatives of the countries mentioned in the said document with a brief statement on the position of my country in that matter. I confirmed the declaration made by our representative at the twenty-second session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, that is to say, that Spain no longer applies any consular formalities which could be considered an obstacle to international trade.

Under instructions from my Government, and with a view to completing this statement, I have the honour to communicate the following to you:

In document L/2563 published by the secretariat of GATT on 2 March 1966 Spain is included in the list of the ten countries which according to that document still apply as a general rule consular formalities, and which are requested to supply the secretariat with reports on the matter for consideration at the twenty-third session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. Spain is

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mentioned in that document in spite of the declarations made by the Spanish delegation to the effect that that country does not require any consular formalities in general nor, in particular, consular invoices certifying the origin of the goods; this information was published in document L/2187, issued by the secretariat of GATT on 26 March 1964, and in the declaration made by the representative of Spain at the twenty-second session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 8 March 1965.

The Spanish Government confirms its previous declarations to the effect that it does not require the production of consular invoices and that, when it is necessary to prove the origin of goods, the certificate for that purpose can be supplied either by the chambers of commerce or by the customs authorities of the country of origin and, of course, on request, by the Spanish consulates, but in this case it is never compulsory. Moreover, the legalization charge for a visa of a certificate of origin is so slight that it cannot in any case be considered an obstacle to international trade. In consequence of the above, Spain considers that its attitude in this matter complies with the general lines of the Recommendation of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in 1962 concerning the abolition of consular formalities in accordance with the Recommendation of 1952, as amended in 1957.

