CHANGES IN AGRICULTURAL POLICIES

SWEDEN

Under paragraph 2(e) of the Decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES of 7 December 1961, contracting parties were invited to notify any substantial changes in their agricultural policies so that the information assembled from past Committee II consultations can be kept up to date. A memorandum from the Government of Sweden concerning changes in Swedish agricultural policy in recent years is distributed for the information of the Committee.

Memorandum
Concerning Changes in the Swedish Agricultural Policy in Recent Years

The six-year agreement now in operation between the Swedish agricultural organizations and the Government runs from 1 September 1959 to 31 August 1965. The signification of this agreement and the agricultural policy conducted within its framework have been related exhaustively in the Swedish notification to GATT's Committee II. At the very examination of the Swedish agricultural policy within the Committee which took place on 3 and 4 April 1960 this information was still more supplemented and developed. The result of GATT's examination of the Swedish agricultural policy has been summarized in GATT document L/1171 of 27 April 1960. No fundamental changes have thereafter been made in the agreement, and thus there are no essential changes in the agricultural policy to report. On some points, however, new agricultural policy measures have been added or unimportant modifications have been made within the framework of the agricultural control system in force.

As from the 1961 harvest a system of permanent crop-damage protection has been established. The system operates in such a way that farmers with an arable land area of at least two hectares who have suffered crop damage shall receive compensation in cash which corresponds to the loss above normal crop variation and after deduction of a certain fixed sum excess. The size of the crop damage is determined by an objective harvest estimation utilizing the so-called test-surface-method, and the excess which the farmers in accordance with the system have to bear above the normal crop variation is estimated at about
15.5 per cent of the normal crop value. The crop-damage protection is going to be financed through a special crop-damage fund which is going to be supplied each year with Sw.Kr. 10 million from the Government and Sw.Kr. 20 million from the farmers.

Within the framework of the agricultural control system in force certain changes have been made as regards the import regulations. Thus, the efforts to widen, step by step, the free-listing of imports within the agricultural sector have had the result that in recent years the imports have been liberalized for yet another number of commodities. In 1960 a detailed account was given in GATT's Committee II of the position at that time as regards the liberalization of imports. The changes which have been made after that have indirectly been accounted for in the Swedish notification to GATT of the remaining import restrictions.

Because of the very oppressive international market situation concerning sugar there were established in March 1961 special provisional provisions as regards the import of sugar. These provisions are still in force. The measures have been notified to GATT in accordance with Article XVII and have afterwards been published in GATT document L/1457 on 3 May 1961.