Among the products listed in paragraph 1 of the supplementary questionnaire (document L/1768, Annex III), only tobacco and vegetable oils are subject to State trading.

I. TOBACCO

Question 1

The only significant change since earlier notifications has been the progressive application of the common external tariff since 1 January 1962.

Question 2

The Society for the Industrial Exploitation of Tobacco and Matches (Société d'exploitation industrielle des tabacs et allumettes - SEITA) has become an industrial and commercial enterprise of a fiscal character, responsible for operating the monopoly on tobacco and matches. It has financial autonomy, and is subject to State economic and financial control.

Question 3

The SEITA controls and directs tobacco cultivation and is obliged by law to purchase the entire domestic production. Each year it can determine the area under tobacco, but because of the social aspects of tobacco-growing annual variations can only by very limited. This situation has prevailed since the introduction of the monopoly and has not been modified by the introduction of the common market.

Question 4

The SEITA has a monopoly of manufacture in France, and is consequently the only agency authorized to import leaf tobacco. The SEITA pays the common external tariff duty on tobacco imported from countries not members of the
common market. As regards domestic production, in addition to the price paid to planters the SEITA pays a charge equivalent to 10 per cent of the purchase price into the budget for agricultural social benefits.

Question 5

Import contracts are negotiated directly by the SEITA.

Question 6

The GATT Declaration of 7 December 1961 has been transmitted to the SEITA for appropriate attention.

Question 7

See statistics furnished herewith.

II. VEGETABLE OILS

Question 1

A detailed description of the vegetable oils market system was given in documents L/784/Add.1 and COM.II/24 (pages 4-7). There has been no fundamental change in the system of operation of the State monopoly. Minor adjustments have, however, become necessary following the accession to independence of the African countries in the franc area. In addition, since the 1960/61 season olive oil is no longer covered by the market organization scheme.

Question 2

The intervention agency in the market for edible fluid oleaginous products is the Interprofessional Society for edible fluid oleaginous products (Société interprofessionnelle des Oléagineux fluides alimentaires - SIOFA). This is a private company (limited company) responsible for acting on behalf of the Government. Instructions are transmitted to it by a Government Commissioner (Chemical Industries Department of the Ministry of Industry). A State Comptroller exercises economic and financial control.

Question 3

With respect to domestic production, the SIOFA is only required to intervene regarding those quantities which do not find a purchaser at the guaranteed prices. This provision is, in fact, equally valid for French colza production and for peanut production by the African States in the franc area.
Question 4

No privilege of manufacture. On the other hand the SIOFA holds a monopoly over imports, at least with respect to those from countries outside the franc area.

Question 5

Import contracts are negotiated directly by the intervention agency.

Question 6

The GATT Declaration of 7 December 1961 has been transmitted to the SIOFA for appropriate attention.

Question 7

See documents herewith.