FRANCE EXTENDS MEASURES OF TRADE LIBERALIZATION

The following is the text of a Note dated 22 December 1959 which has been communicated to the GATT secretariat by the French authorities:

"A further extension to the measures of trade liberalization will become effective on 1 January 1960, notification of which will appear in the 'Journal Officiel' within the next few days. This notification will take the form of a negative list of the commodities which will continue to be subject to quotas. In order to appreciate the economic import of those measures and the interest which they represent for the United States, the following facts should be stressed;

1) the extent of this additional liberalization effort which, expressed on the basis of 1957 reference, represents an increase in the level of our liberalization towards the OEEC from 80 per cent to about 90 per cent. The percentage of liberalization towards the United States and Canada on the basis of recent references has not yet been calculated;

2) the willingness to apply non-discrimination between the OEEC, the United States and Canada: the forthcoming liberalization measures apply in their entirety to the United States and Canada as well as to the OEEC; furthermore, out of the thirty-six tariff items which on 26 September 1958 were still subject to quotas with the dollar area, while being liberalized with the OEEC, twelve will be liberalized towards the United States and Canada, these items being: boric acid and borate, ether oxy-alcohols, ketone alcohols, dyeing and colouring materials and lacquers, tyres, spare parts for pumps, trailers, working garments (overalls), acrylic textile fibres and yarns (orlon);

3) the importance of the liberalized commodities. Among agricultural products are included for instance: whisky, honey, low strength beer, dried or smoked fish, liqueur wines, tapioca, fatty acids. Among industrial products: structural alloy steel, lead and zinc scrap, ferro-nickel, semi-manufactured products of nickel. In the sector of mechanical and electrical industries: motor cars and small delivery motor trucks, wheeled tractors, reapers-threshers, engines, certain machine-tools (vertical lathes, power presses, hydraulic machinery, etc.), pumps for liquids, washing machines, electro-mechanical tools, industrial handling trucks, certain equipment for public works (cranes on wheels,
motor shovels and loaders, etc.), electrical batteries and lamps, generators and transformers, laboratory apparatus, measuring and detecting equipment, etc. In the sector of chemical industries, the following items are liberalized: composite fertilizers, triple superphosphates, phosphorus and silicon, cobalt sulphate chloride, perborates, oxygenated water, ammonium and potassium phosphates; over 100 items of organic chemistry, including antibiotics, vitamins, sulpha drugs, di-trichloromethane xylones, methanol, propanol, octyl alcohol, cyclic ureins, etc; laundry preparations and starching products; several plastic materials: aminoplasts, epoxy- and cycoglycerophthalic resins, low pressure polythene, etc. Under the liberalized consumption goods are included: films and paper for colour photography, rubber belting, aircraft tyres, footwear for tennis and basketball, illuminating glassware and optical glass, tiles of cement, stoneware or earthenware, sinks and washbasins, cellulosic sponges, dry ink, travel goods, silk fabrics unprinted, fabrics of synthetic fibres (nylon, dacron, etc.), artificial fibres (yarns, staple fibre, fabrics), linen fabrics, printed cotton fabrics, carpeting made of cotton or synthetic fibres, velvet, ribbons and tulle made of artificial or synthetic fibres, all garments except waterproof and those made of wool or synthetic fibre, all household linen and clothing accessories not previously liberalized, musical instruments, gramophone records, fountain pens, electric billiards and sporting goods!"