FRANCE UNDERTAKES FURTHER LIBERALIZATION MEASURES

The French authorities have informed the GATT secretariat that a further list of products have been liberalized when imported into France. This new measure, which applies to imports from OEEC countries, the United States and Canada, brings the percentage of French liberalization up to 90.4 per cent for the OEEC countries and to 88.5 per cent for the United States and Canada (base year 1953).

The products which have just been liberalized include among others: roughly fifty items under the heading of organic chemicals, several of which are particularly important, such as aromatic hydrocarbons, aromatic ketone alcohols, acyclic amino-quinones; several vitamins, cortisone, several plastic materials, building supplies made of cement of a density of 1.6 or under; agglomerated wood panels, cork stoppers measuring over 50 mm.; semi-manufactured products of ferro and nickel alloys; all diesel engines for tractors (up to now only air-cooled engines were liberalized); presses for the rubber and plastics industries; photograph enlarging and reducing apparatus; geophysical instruments, record players, motor-operated games, etc.

In addition, a number of items which were already liberalized in respect of OEEC countries but were still subject to quotas in respect of other countries have now been liberalized as regards imports from the United States and Canada. These include accounting machines, pumps and alternating compressors weighing over 7,000 kgs., plumbing taps and fixtures, certain types of geophysical and measuring instruments (liquid supply meters).

Details of the above liberalization measures were published in the French Moniteur Officiel, 5 April 1960.