The Government of Turkey has informed the GATT secretariat that it has recently taken a number of measures to liberalize imports, and supplied certain details of the measures taken as well as some background information. The communiqué is as follows:

"1. One of the primary objectives of the Stabilization Programme initiated by Turkey on 4 August 1958 was to liberalize imports to the greatest possible extent. As a result of the measures adopted under this Stabilization Programme and of the satisfactory outcome of the successive import programmes implemented by Government, the way was opened for the gradual application of a policy of liberalization of imports.

"2. Since 25 August 1958, imports to Turkey have been admitted under the following systems:

(a) List of global quotas

A system of periodical global quotas was introduced on 4 August 1958, date on which the Stabilization Programme was implemented. This system, as its designation implies, entails a proportional distribution of quotas provided for each commodity in relation to requests submitted by importers.

During the period which has elapsed since 4 August 1958, four series of global quotas have been issued and brought into operation under this system.

The first quarterly global quotas, amounting to US$160 million, were issued on 23 September 1958. These quotas were intended for imports from EMA countries and free currency areas.

The second quarterly global quotas, totalling US$150 million, were issued on 17 and 18 February 1959. They applied to imports from all countries.

The third global quotas, in the amount of US$170 million, were issued on 3 August 1959. These covered imports from the EMA countries and free currency areas.
The fourth global quotas, totalling US$100 million and intended to apply to imports from EMA countries and free currency areas, were issued on 15 February 1960. The total amount of these fourth global quotas is substantially lower than that of the previous global quotas. This is motivated by additions made to the lists of liberated products and of products covered by automatic allocations introduced in the third Import Programme.

Imports from countries with which Turkey has entered into bilateral agreements are governed by yearly quotas equivalent in value to that of exports to those countries. These quotas will assume the character of contractual obligations as a result of the renegotiation of existing bilateral agreements which was begun in February 1960.

(b) List of automatic allotments

The system of automatic allotments, which was introduced on 3 August 1959 with the third Import Programme and was extended as from 15 February 1960, the date on which the fourth Import Programme came into force, may be regarded as a list of "controlled" liberalization. Indeed, considering that this list of automatic allotments provides the possibility of meeting any import requirements for the commodities listed therein, regardless of quantity or time factor, it constitutes for all intents and purposes a list of products liberated "under control". The only requisite, before being allowed to import commodities included in the list, is to obtain, from the competent authorities shown on that same list, a so-called "certificate of requirement". Apart from this condition, which is intended to prevent speculative operations, there are no other formalities, and approved banks will then, almost immediately upon request, deliver the necessary import certificates.

At the present time, the following products are included in the list of automatic import allotments: fuels, mineral oils, certain types of packing material used in the export trade, all essential raw materials for industrial purposes and a number of miscellaneous products.

(c) List of liberated commodities

As previously stated, one of the primary objectives of the Stabilization Programme which came into force on 4 August 1958 was the re-instatement, to the widest possible extent, of import liberalization measures.

In pursuance of this objective, the Turkish Government has taken, as from 3 August 1959, a number of steps, the significance of which cannot be underestimated.
As a result of the successive enactment of several liberalization measures under dates of 13 and 15 May 1959, of 3 August 1959, and more importantly of 15 February 1960, imports into Turkey of a large number of commodities are now free, including many finished products, all spare parts, a major portion of raw materials and some agricultural commodities.

Under the third Import Programme, the total number of items included in the liberated list and in the list of automatic allotments - the latter being so to speak, as already stated, a list of liberated products "under control" - represented only 27 per cent of the aggregate number of items included in all of the lists. Under the fourth Programme, this percentage of items included in the liberated list and in the list of automatic allotments was raised to 54 per cent, representing a 100 per cent increase and bringing the ratio of liberated commodities to 54 per cent of total imports.

"3. Relaxation and elimination of restrictive measures and formalities on imports

As from 4 August 1958, all exchange restrictions and formalities in respect of transfers of funds in payment of imports were reduced to a minimum, and starting from 19 February 1959, the preliminary control of import prices was entirely discontinued.

Then, from 15 February 1960 onwards, the Turkish Government proceeded to abolish all remaining restrictive measures and formalities.

At first (as from 15 February 1960) the maximum delivery time allowed for imports was raised from 4 months to 6 months; then (as from 15 March 1960) the payment of a 10 per cent cash deposit on imports required as a guarantee of delivery within the prescribed time limit, was superseded by the deposit of a bank guarantee; finally (also as from 15 March 1960) industrial concerns were dispensed from the obligation of any security deposit on goods imported by them.

As will be apparent from the above report significant advances have been achieved by Turkey toward the liberalization of imports since August 1958."

The List of Products benefitting from the Automatic Allotment System and the List of Liberated Products published on 15 February 1960 may be consulted at the GATT secretariat.