The GATT secretariat has recently received from the authorities of Japan further information on import liberalization undertaken in accordance with the accelerated programme of liberalization adopted by the Government of Japan in September 1961. With effect from 1 April 1962, Japan has introduced a "negative list" and has further decreased the list of restricted items. Some 400 items previously under the Fund Allocation System, were shifted to the Automatic Approval System or Automatic Fund Allocation System.

Included among the approximately 150 items added to the Automatic Approval System are: coconut and copra oils; palm kernel oil; linseed oil; bitter chocolate and cocoa paste (sugarless); canned asparagus; pulps for chemical fibres; jute yarn and fabrics; paperboard (except kraft board); petroleum cokes; magnesium products; refractory bricks; high-speed steel, various types of steel including alloy spring steel, high carbon tool steel; piano cords; and alloy steel pipes.

Among the approximately 250 items transferred to the Automatic Fund Allocation list are: instant coffee; various preserved and frozen fruits; pears; melons; natural fruit flavours; malt extract; seed lac; shellac; potassic fertilizers; newsprint paper; polyamide resins; phenol resins; silicones; polyethylene; polystyrene; X-ray films; cinematograph film (not colour) for 8 mm. cine camera; cordages, cables, ropes and twines consisting of jute, manila, hemp, flax, etc.; handbags, trunks, suitcases, golf bags, etc. of leather, composition leather, plastic etc.; certain made-up goods of flax or ramie; certain refrigerating cabinets; refrigerators over 10 h.p.; pumps; coal cutters; lawn mowers; dairy machines; electric washing machines; pneumatic tools; vertical shapers; lapping machines; automatic planers; watch movements; industrial sewing machines; electric welding machines; AC and DC electric generators (under 1,000 kw.); dynamos; engines for auto-bicycles and auto-tricycles; outboard motors (25 h.p. or more); and buses and trucks.