AUSTRIA SUSPENDS DUTIES ON TEA AND COFFEE
TO INCREASE IMPORTS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Austrian authorities have informed the Executive Secretary, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, that the Austrian Ministry of Finance has suspended the customs duty for coffee (unroasted) and for tea with effect from 15 May 1964. (For tea imported in packings of 3 kgs. or less a new lower duty rate has been set, effective the same date.)

The Austrian authorities have indicated that, since coffee and tea are not subject to quantitative restrictions or to internal fiscal charges in Austria, the measures referred to above have practically established free access of these products to the Austrian market, as desired by the less-developed countries under the GATT Action Programme.

Further, to achieve the desired objective of stimulating consumption, and thus imports, the Austrian authorities have decreed that the above measures are granted by the Customs Offices on the condition that the price reduction resulting from the suspension of the duty is extended to the consumer. Action has also been taken in order to draw the attention of the customer to the price reductions for tea and certain brands of coffee, so that an increase in consumption can be expected.

END