NEW ZEALAND IMPLEMENTS GATT ACTION PROGRAMME:
ELIMINATES CUSTOMS DUTIES ON TEA AND TROPICAL HARDWOODS

When the GATT Programme of Action was adopted by the Ministers at their meeting in May 1963 special attention was given to trade in tropical products and to free access to markets of industrialized countries for such products. As regards the customs duties on tea and on tropical timber the Ministers agreed that such duties should be removed with the least possible delay.

The New Zealand authorities have informed the Executive Secretary, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, that in implementation of the Action Programme the following changes in the New Zealand tariff came into force on 12 June 1964. (Customs Tariff Amendment Order, No. 3, 1964):

(a) Elimination of duty on tea in packages of 5 lb. net or over.

(b) Reduction of duties on tea in packages of less than 5 lb. net to:

- British preferential rate - 2 pence per lb.
- Most-favoured-nation rate - 3 pence per lb.
- General rate - 4 pence per lb.

(c) Elimination of duty on sawn tropical hardwoods within the New Zealand tariff classification 243.310.

END