EXCHANGE OF CUSTOMS TARIFFS AND TRADE STATISTICS

ADDITIONUM

The following additional information has been received from governments regarding the distribution of customs tariffs and trade statistics:

AUSTRALIA

On 6 February Overseas Trade Statistics 1948/49, Parts II and III were sent to representatives in Australia of the Governments of Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Ceylon, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, India, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Sweden, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom and the United States; on 7 February the Australian External Affairs Officer in London handed them to the representatives of the Governments of Austria, Southern Rhodesia and Turkey and the Australian Mission in Berlin transmitted them to the Government of the Federal German Republic through the United Kingdom authorities.

BURMA

The latest editions of the Burmese Customs Tariff and Annual Statement of Trade and Navigation are being despatched to all participating governments.

NEW ZEALAND

On 30 January copies of the New Zealand customs tariff and relevant trade statistics for the years 1936, 1937, 1938 and 1948 were forwarded to the Federal Republic of Germany. Similar information was recently sent to the Governments of Austria, Guatemala, Peru, Philippines and Turkey.

PAKISTAN

Copies of the Pakistan customs tariff were supplied to participating governments either through their representatives stationed at Karachi or by air mail on 11 January. Trade statistics for the year 1948-49 will be supplied shortly.

PERU

Copies of Import Tariff (Decree Law No. 11048) and copies of Annual Bulletin of Foreign Commerce for 1947 have been forwarded to Chile, Denmark, United States, Great Britain, Holland (Benelux), Italy and Sweden.
WESTERN GERMANY

Copies of the following have been despatched to Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Greece, India, Italy, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sweden, Turkey, Union of South Africa, United Kingdom and the United States:

2. Postwar trade statistics.

The following explanatory notes have been received:

"The current customs tariff is sent only as an indication of German rates and should not be used as the firm basis for negotiations. The tariff reform presently taking place and which will result in a new ad valorem tariff will be completed sometime in April. The new rates which are intended for use in the September GATT meetings will be sent to member countries as expeditiously thereafter as may be possible.

"Copies of trade statistics are sent as follows:

Part 1: Accumulative Surveys
   December 1948
   October 1949
   November 1949

Part 2: Specialized Trade by Commodities (Statistical numbers)
   January - March 1949
   April - November 1949 (monthly)

Part 3: Foreign Trade by Continents and Countries
   January - December 1948
   January - September 1949
   Year Book 1948

"The following information should accompany the transmittal of the trade statistics:

"For the period January 1948 through September 1949 foreign trade statistical publications have been made for the Combined Economic Area (U.S. and U.K. Zones of Germany) (Vereinigtes Wirtschaftsgebiet); and beginning with October 1949 for the area of the Federal Republic, Data on the French Zone can be found in the JEIA Reports 1949. It is only possible to add up the figures for the Combined Economic Area and those for the French Zone with regard to their total values, and concerning the data on countries of origin and destination. Further, it is only possible to add up statistical figures by commodities for the two areas for the months January - September 1949 following the ECA Code. With regard to foreign trade statistics of the Combined Economic Area and the Federal Republic, the following particulars are pointed out:

"It has, however, to be considered that imports of the Combined Economic Area include only such commodities which have been handled by one of the customs offices of the Combined Economic Area, independent of where they cross the borders of the U.S., U.K. and French Zones. Imports of the Combined Economic Area, therefore, include such commodities which, after having been put into free circulation, are sent on to the French Zone, and exports also comprise such commodities which originate in the French Zone but for which export licences have been issued by a bank of the Combined Economic Area.

"Trade between the Combined Economic Area or the German Federal Republic with the Soviet Zone and Soviet Sector of Berlin is not included in the figures of foreign trade statistics.

"Values in the statistical publications are given in 1000 DMs and 1000 $; dollar values for imports, however, are only from January 1949. In principle, DM values represent the amounts which the importer has to pay to the Bank deutscher Länder or which the exporter would receive from the Bank deutscher Länder. Approximately up to the time of the currency reform in June 1948 values for imports and exports were based on inland prices which were in no way or only loosely related to world market prices. Later on values have to an increasing extent been calculated in DMs based on $ values. Regarding imports, it was not before May 1949 that this shift from an inland price basis to actual paid $ values was finally concluded. Import and export values are frontier values, i.e. values free German frontier. Your attention is especially directed to the explanations in the publications, in particular the cumulative surveys ("Zusammenfassende Übersichten"), which explain in detail the development in calculating the definitions of value during the years 1948/49.

"Pre-war statistics on a comparable basis are not available, especially since the Soviet Zone of Germany, areas east of the Oder/Neisse line and the Saar area are not now included in statistics of the Bundesrepublik Deutschland and it is not possible to separate statistics of these specific areas for pre-war periods."