STATE-TRADING ENTERPRISES

Notifications pursuant to Article XVII:4(a) in reply to the New Questionnaire contained in Document L/1014 of 3 July 1959

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

I. Enumeration of State-Trading Enterprises

The whole foreign trade of Czechoslovakia is carried out exclusively by the following Foreign Trade Corporations:

ARTIA, Exporters-Importers of Cultural Commodities, Smečky 30, Praha 2.


CZECHOSLOVAK CERAMICS, Foreign Trade Corporation for Export and Import of Ceramic Ware, V jámě 1, Praha 2.

The following notifications received from governments have been reproduced in addenda to document L/1014:

- Australia ................. Add.9
- Austria .................. " 14
- Belgium .................. " 12
- Ceylon .................... " 7
- Denmark .................. " 5
- Federation of Malaya .... " 10
- Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland" 4
- Finland ................... " 11
- Germany, Fed. Rep. of ... Add.15
- Ghana ........................ " 8
- India ........................ " 2
- Japan ........................ " 16
- New Zealand ................ " 3
- Norway ........................ " 17
- Sweden ........................ " 6
- Union of South Africa ... " 1
- United Kingdom .......... " 13
CEDOK, Czechoslovak Travel Bureau,
Na příkopě 13, Praha 3, and Sedlářská 1, Bratislava.

CECHOFRACHT, Shipping and International Forwarding Corporation,
Na příkopě 8, Praha 3.

FERROMET, Foreign Trade Corporation for Export and Import of
Metallurgical Products,
Opletalova 27, Praha 3.

FILMEXPORT,
Jindřiška 34, Praha 2.

GLASSEXPORT, Foreign Trade Corporation for Export of Glass,
Václavské nám.1, Praha 2.

JABLONEX, Foreign Trade Corporation for Export of Jablonec Articles,
Gottwaldova 54, Jablonec n. Nisou.

LIGNA, Foreign Trade Corporation for Export and Import of Timber and
Products of the Woodworking and Paper Industries,
Vodičkova 41, Praha 2.

KOOSPOL, Foreign Trade Corporation for Import and Export of Foodstuffs
and Agricultural Products,
Třída Dukelských hrdinů 47, Praha 7.

KOVO, Foreign Trade Corporation for Import and Export of Precision
Engineering Products,
Třída Dukelských hrdinů 47, Praha 7.

METALLMAX, Foreign Trade Corporation for Import and Export of Ores,
Metals and Solid Fuels,
Stěpná 34, Praha 2.

MOTOKOV, Foreign Trade Corporation for Import and Export of Vehicles
and Light Engineering Products,
Třída Dukelských hrdinů 47, Praha 7.

OMNIPOL, Foreign Trade Corporation for Export and Import of Sports
and Transport Aircraft and Sports Arms,
Washingtonova 11, Praha 3.

PRAGUEXPORT, Foreign Trade Corporation for Export and Import of
Smallware and Outfitting Articles,
Jungmannova 34, Praha 2.

STATNI POJISTOVNA, Marine Insurance Department,
Spálená 16, Praha 2.
STROJIMPORT, Foreign Trade Corporation for Export of Machines and Industrial Plants, Konviktská 5, Praha 1.

STROJEXPORT, Foreign Trade Corporation for Export of Machines and Machinery Equipment, Václavské nám. 56, Praha 2.

TECHNOEXPORT, Foreign Trade Corporation for Export of Complete Industrial Plants, Václavské nám. 56, Praha 2.


INSPIRETA, Corporation for Superintending of Export and Import Goods, Jindřišská 5, Praha 3.

TUZEX, Foreign Trade Corporation for Retail Sales of Export and Import Articles, Rytířská 13, Praha 1.

UNICOOP, Import and Export Cooperative, Třešnov 5, Praha 3.

II. Reason and purpose for introducing and maintaining the State-Trading Enterprises

The whole economic system of Czechoslovakia, including internal and external trade, is based on the principle of State trading. Its purpose is to assure the fulfilment of the general plan of the Czechoslovak economy which sets out the means for the achievement of its main objectives, i.e. the rising of the general level of standards of life of the whole population, in proportions found best suitable for this purpose.

The relevant legal provisions have been included in document L/784/Add.1. No change has been made in these provisions since then.

III. Description of the functioning of the State-Trading Enterprises

The corporations mentioned in para. 1 deal with exports as well as with imports in the field of their delimited commodities.

As each corporation has an exclusive right to export and import the commodities within its delimitation, no other persons are allowed to import or export these commodities. There are no private traders, and consequently no competition with State-trading corporations.
The minimum quantities to be exported and imported are fixed by the plan of external trade for each year. On the import side the plan indicates the quantities or value of individual commodities or groups of commodities to satisfy the needs of the whole economy, covering the interests of consumers, as well as the requirements of the production and investments. Exports have to provide first of all payment facilities to cover the needs for imports. In carrying out imports in the framework of the plan and within their existing payment abilities the corporations do not need any import or exchange licences, and they are free to choose their sources of supply according to their commercial considerations.

The foreign trade corporations are free to determine individual export prices for the goods they export, according to commercial consideration and to the general rule to sell at world market prices, taking into account differences in conditions and terms of sale. Because the domestic prices are fixed by the State owing to considerations entirely different to those valid for exports, there is no link between export prices and prices for domestic consumption.

No mark-up on imported products is being determined. Imported goods are sold on the domestic market for the same prices as domestically produced goods of the same kind.

State-trading corporations are negotiating long-term contracts whenever advisable. As there are no other than State-trading methods to carry out trade, no other methods could be used to fulfil contractual obligations entered into eventually by the Government.

IV. Statistical Information

Since State trading in Czechoslovakia embraces the whole of trade, a meaningful reproduction of special statistical figures seems impossible. Total trade and production statistics for 1957, 1958 and 1959 are on file at the secretariat.

V. Reason why no foreign trade has taken place (if this is the case) in the products affected

In view of the foregoing an answer to this question seems impossible.

VI. Additional Information

No additional information seems to be required at this stage.

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1 They may be consulted in the library of the GATT secretariat.