The following communication dated 25 October 1960 has been received from the Secretary General of the Customs Co-operation Council:

"I have pleasure in sending you herewith a copy of the text of the above Customs Convention which was adopted by the Customs Co-operation Council at its XVIth Session in June 1960 and will be open for signature until 31 March 1961.

"As you will see from the final text, the Council has accepted all the suggestions made by the Group of Experts set up by the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Doc. L/1208).

"In compliance with the suggestion made by this Group, a record has been kept of the unanimously accepted interpretations of certain Articles of the Convention which, though not important enough to be included in the Convention itself, were nevertheless felt to be helpful in ensuring its uniform interpretation. These interpretations are as follows:

"Article 1 (a)

The exclusion of transport equipment applies only to containers covered by the Customs Convention on containers done at Geneva on 18 May 1956 and to pallets. There is no specific reference to pallets because the Convention on customs treatment of pallets used in international transport, sponsored by the Economic Commission for Europe, had not yet been adopted.

"Article 1 (c)

The provisions of this Article would be deemed to be met if, under an import licensing system, import licences were always issued to permit the temporary importation of packings subject to their re-exportation.
"Article 3

This Article is intended to ensure that nothing in the Convention should be understood to affect the treatment of packings which, under existing customs systems, are regarded as part of the imported goods (e.g. in the case of specific duties levied on gross weight, or of ad valorem duties applied to packed goods).

"Article 10

The term 'public security' covers both internal and external security and consequently extends to measures taken by a government in time of war or other emergency in international relations as envisaged in Article XXI:(b)(iii) of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

"Article 20, paragraph 1

The phrase 'packings other than those imported on ... hire purchase or under any similar contract' shall not be construed to exclude from the application of the Convention packings which remain foreign property but in respect of which a charge is paid for use.

Copies of the Convention are being transmitted, through diplomatic channels, to all Members of the Customs Co-operation Council and of the United Nations or its specialized agencies.

"I feel that the finalization of this Convention is a most encouraging result of the close co-operation established in this field between our two organizations."