The following communication has been received from the Government of Cuba:

"I have pleasure in informing you that on 17 November last the full text of Decree No. 3089 was published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Cuba, page No. 22364; this Decree, signed by Dr. Osvaldo Dorticos Torrado, Head of State, Dr. Fidel Castro Ruz, Prime Minister, and Dr. Raul Roa Garcia, Minister for External Relations, abolishes the consular procedure for goods imported into Cuba.

"I annex a copy of the above-mentioned Decree and have pleasure in pointing out that it mentions, among other considerations motivating the abolition of the procedure in question, the recommendations adopted in this regard by the CONTRACTING PARTIES. In taking this step the Revolutionary Government of Cuba has thus taken account of the objectives of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade by showing its willingness to adapt itself to the spirit of that Agreement.

"Furthermore, my Government believes that this Decree will contribute to the expansion of Cuba's trade relations with all countries."
ANNEX

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Decree No. 3089

WHEREAS the consular procedure for the import of goods is out of date and inconsistent with Cuba's new foreign trade directives, and through excessive bureaucracy and unnecessary documentation it hinders trade;

WHEREAS the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), of which Cuba is a signatory, recommends the simplification of import procedures and the suppression of consular invoices as soon as possible in view of the fact that a large proportion of world trade is conducted without such invoices which by hindering imports affect the consumer in the last resort;

WHEREAS it is necessary to simplify our consular import procedures and thus to make them consistent with the rationalization sought by the Cuban Public Administration under the Revolutionary Government and at the same time to make them correspond to the nation's economic objectives;

ACCORDINGLY, in execution of the powers conferred upon me, on the proposal of the Minister for External Relations and with the assistance of the Council of Ministers,

I HEREBY RESOLVE:

1. The Consular invoice shall be abolished as a shipping document for goods consigned to Cuba.

2. The consular fees formerly levied for certifying the consular invoice shall be determined and collected when need arises by the Customs Offices receiving the imported goods, which shall calculate such fees according to the established procedure on the basis of the f.o.b. value declared in the commercial invoice.

3. As regards the credit cards issued and in circulation by the National Bank of Cuba prior to the entry into force of the present Decree for the payment of goods abroad and which specify that a consular invoice must be presented, the latter document shall be replaced by a certificate to be issued free of charge by the appropriate consular official at the request of the party concerned and shall state the aforementioned objective.
4. All Bank consular invoice forms existing in the offices of the Cuban Foreign Service and at the Ministry of Foreign Relations are hereby declared null and void.

5. The Minister for Foreign Relations, the Minister for Foreign Trade and the Minister President of the National Bank of Cuba shall be responsible for carrying out the terms of the present Decree in so far as it concerns each of them, and are expressly authorized to issue all necessary regulations for so doing.

6. Any laws and regulations not consistent with the terms of the present Decree are hereby revoked; the present Decree shall take effect from the date of its publication in the Official Journal of the Republic.

DONE at the Presidential Palace, Havana, on 14 November 1961.