CONSULAR FORMALITIES

At the twenty-third session, after a review of progress toward abolition of consular formalities on the part of some of the contracting parties which still maintain such formalities, it was decided to retain this item on the agenda of the twenty-fourth session, and to ask the countries still maintaining consular formalities to submit information on progress achieved by that time. These countries were again urged to hasten the removal of such formalities.

Accordingly, the secretariat reminded the following countries, believed still to require consular formalities regularly, to submit reports in time for consideration by the twenty-fourth session:

Brazil
Dominican Republic
Haiti
Nicaragua

Peru
Portugal
Turkey
Uruguay

It was agreed that Argentina and Spain would not be considered as countries still formally requested to submit information on this subject, in view of progress they had already made toward removal of consular formalities, but the CONTRACTING PARTIES indicated that reports from them on progress would be welcome.

The information received on consular formalities is reproduced below.

SPAIN

The Spanish Government has abolished all consular requirements imposed upon foreign and domestic navigation and relating specifically to the obligation of affixing consular visas on bills of lading. The above-mentioned formality has been rescinded by a Decree of 16 March 1967 (except for bills of lading concerning ships of less than 150 tons and ships carrying tobacco, in so far as tobacco is concerned). Visas concerning lists of passengers and crews have also been abolished. As a result thereof, shipping has now been practically freed from all consular requirements.
TURKEY

As will be remembered, inasmuch as the bill pertaining to the amendment of the existing provisions on consular formalities had become nullified by reason of the general elections, the Turkish Government reintroduced a new bill to the Parliament early in 1966.

This bill, which will amend the existing provisions, has already passed through the committees and now is in the agenda of the National Assembly.

It is expected that the bill will be adopted by the National Assembly and the Senate during the coming session of the Turkish Grand National Assembly.