CONSULAR FORMALITIES

The following statement has been received from

the Government of CUBA

In connection with the request made to the Government of Cuba about the steps which it has taken towards the abolition of consular formalities, the Cuban delegation has been instructed to call the attention of the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the fact that the recommendation adopted on 7 November 1952 on this subject is not of a binding nature.

The Cuban delegation wishes to state further that Government of Cuba is not in a position to contemplate the abolition of consular formalities in the light of fiscal as well as of administrative reasons.

However, the Cuban delegation is pleased to report for the information of the CONTRACTING PARTIES that:

1) With only one exception (air shipments but excluding textiles), consular invoices are always required.

2) There are three different kinds of consular invoices according to the nature of the goods to be exported to Cuba: a) general merchandise; b) textiles; and c) beverages.

3) Six copies of consular invoices have to be submitted.

4) Government-issued consular invoice forms are supplied to traders at approximate cost.

5) Consular fees are a percentage of the goods value (2% per cent in the case of most favoured nations and 5 per cent for other nations).

6) Consular invoices are required for all consignments whatever their invoice value.

7) Consular fees are payable in the currency of the exporting country.

8) If there is no Cuban consular representative in the country of export, the export documents should be presented to the nearest Cuban Consulate. If there is no such Consulate, the shipment may be forwarded without consular invoice but a statement must accompany the commercial documentation fully stating the reasons why no consular invoice is presented.
9) **No charge is imposed for mistakes made in good faith by the exporter in drawing up the consular invoice.**

10) Cuban Consulates are expected to handle consular invoices within twenty-four hours of their presentation, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays.

11) If at the written request of the exporter, consular documents have to be handled after office hours, extra fees will have to be paid.