CONSULAR FORMALITIES

Steps taken by Contracting Parties in 1954
to abolish Consular Invoices and Visas

Corrigendum

The French delegation has requested that the French statement on page 3 of document L/279 be replaced by the following text:

France (translation)

In France the question of the abolition of consular formalities is still under study.

The French Government considers, however, that it would be very difficult to ask the French Parliament to abolish by a stroke of the pen all consular formalities as long as a considerable number of countries, including some which have not subscribed to the General Agreement, continue to insist on such formalities vis-à-vis French exporters and to charge heavy fees thereunder.

It recognizes, nevertheless, that it would be unfair to deprive other countries endowed with very liberal legislative provisions of the facilities provided for in the Recommendation of 7 November 1952.

Under French law (Article 35 of the Customs Code), the consular visa may, subject to reciprocity, either be replaced by the endorsement of an agency previously approved by the French Government, or it may simply be abolished.

Within the context of these provisions, it has been decided, in consequence, that the following countries which do not require commercial invoices to be endorsed by a consular authority or an approved agency, shall be subject in France to the same régime: Denmark, Finland, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden.

All countries in the same position will of course benefit from the same facilities. The necessary decisions will be taken as soon as current enquiries are concluded.

Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Pakistan and the United Kingdom will in the meantime continue to be exempt from all consular formalities subject to endorsement of commercial invoices by a previously approved agency (chamber of commerce, etc.).