CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN

Views of Contracting Parties on I.C.C. Proposals

The following statements have been received from the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, Norway, Turkey and the United Kingdom:

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

"The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany raises no objection to the second proposal submitted by the International Chamber of Commerce for the amendment of the recommendations."

NORWAY

The Norwegian Government is in favour of the amendment proposed by the International Chamber of Commerce.

TURKEY

The Turkish Government is in favour of the amendment proposed by the International Chamber of Commerce.

UNITED KINGDOM

"Item (b) of the CONTRACTING PARTIES' Recommendation on Certificates of Origin was drawn up by the GATT Working Party in the light of representations which had been made by the International Chamber of Commerce urging that the issue of certificates of origin should not be made difficult by severe restriction of the number of issuing offices, e.g. by limiting the issue of the certificates to Customs offices.

"The International Chamber of Commerce now fears that the number of issuing offices may be made too large, at the risk of reducing the value of the certificates."
"The United Kingdom Delegation to GATT had understood that paragraph (b) of the CONTRACTING PARTIES' Recommendation envisaged the issue of certificates of origin by Chambers of Commerce or similar bodies and by Customs offices, where certification by a body other than the exporter was required. In the United Kingdom, the issue of certificates of origin in this way is in fact authorised. As regards imports into the United Kingdom of goods for which admission at preferential rates of duty is claimed certificates of origin given by the exporters are accepted, without the necessity for certification or endorsement by a Chamber of Commerce or other body. Certificates of origin are not required for other goods.

"The United Kingdom Delegation would accordingly have no objection to paragraph (b) of the Recommendation being amended on the lines suggested by the International Chamber of Commerce. It is, however, not quite correct to say that Governments should ensure that a sufficient number of offices is available: apart from arranging for their own Customs offices to issue certificates of origin, Governments can only authorise other bodies to issue them as well - Governments cannot ensure that such bodies do open offices for the issue of certificates.

"The following text would, it is thought, meet the wishes of the International Chamber of Commerce without opening new difficulties:

'In order to avoid delay to traders, Governments should authorise a sufficient number of competent offices to issue certificates of origin or, when necessary, to visa certificates issued by traders'."