ITALIAN SPECIAL CUSTOMS TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN LIBYAN PRODUCTS

Note by the Secretariat on the Fourth Annual Reports by Italy and Libya

The authority granted to Italy by the Decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES of 9 October 1952 to grant special customs treatment to certain goods imported from Libya was extended at the Tenth Session for a further period of three years by the Decision of 25 November 1955. The fourth annual reports submitted by the Governments of Italy and Libya (L/516 and 513) have been distributed for consideration at the Eleventh Session. These are the first reports submitted since the extension of the waiver.

The reports have been examined with a view to assessing the progress made towards the objectives which the waiver seeks to achieve, namely the development of Libya's external trade on a normal competitive basis so that the Libyan economy will cease to be dependent upon preferential treatment in Italian markets, but it has been found that the accompanying statistics presented in the two reports are not drawn up along sufficiently uniform lines. Perhaps the most useful step that could be taken by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at this Session would be to instruct the secretariat to have discussions with the representatives of Italy and Libya, before the preparation of their reports for the Twelfth Session, with a view to agreeing upon a uniform system of presentation of trade data and also to facilitate the analysis of Libya’s progress towards achieving the objectives of the waiver.