GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

NATIONALITY OF IMPORTED GOODS

Further Statements received from the Contracting Parties

Each contracting party was asked, in document L/71, to submit by
30 April 1953 a statement of its present principles and practices in
determining the nationality of imported goods. The statements received
before 31 July 1953 were distributed in L/71/Add.1.

The statement of the Dominican Republic is reproduced herewith.
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

1. Purposes for which origin is required to be established

(a) In view of the fact that duties levied on imports from GATT members are different from those levied on imports from non-GATT members, it is indispensable to determine the country of origin in order to levy the appropriate rate of duty.

(b) The Dominican Republic imposes no quantitative restrictions.

(c) It is also necessary to know the origin of imported goods if statistical returns are to be the faithful expression of international trade with foreign countries.

(d) Under existing customs legislation, merchandise marks are not required.

(e) There are no other reasons.

2. Definition of origin

Our customs legislation does not define the country of origin, the reason being that imports of the natural produce of one country and imports of goods manufactured in one country from national raw materials or from imported raw materials are regarded as originating in that country.

3. Treatment of goods which have passed through one or more countries on the way to the country of importation

(a) If the country of origin is a member of GATT, most-favoured-nation treatment is accorded.

(b) The Dominican Republic imposes no quantitative restrictions.

(c) Notwithstanding the fact that the goods have transited through other countries, for statistical purposes they are regarded as originating in the country in which they initially originated.

(d) Under existing customs legislation, merchandise marks are not required.

(e) There are no other reasons.

4. Proof of origin

(a) No certificate or other proof relating to the origin of goods is required, with the exception of French wines of "controlled denomination", which have been the object of special negotiations.
(b) The country of origin is indicated in a special column to that effect in the consular invoice.

(c) At the time of verification, the customs authorities determine the country of origin of the goods for the purpose of levying the duty.

5. Proposals for international action

In conformity with the provisions of the GATT, Article II:1(a) and (b), the Dominican Republic accords preferential customs treatment to goods originating in GATT countries which are imported from other GATT countries or from a free port, provided sufficient evidence can be given that they actually originated in a country which is entitled to most-favoured-nation treatment. We believe that it would be useful if adequate measures could be taken with a view to facilitating the identification of the country in which goods originate or from which they are imported; thus possible delays resulting from verification or from errors in the application of the GATT concessions could be avoided.