At the eighteenth meeting of the Twelfth Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, held on 22 November 1957, the secretariat was instructed to prepare a draft Recommendation on Marks of Origin. This draft, to be based on the Working Party Report adopted in 1956 (Basic Instruments and Selected Documents, Fifth Supplement, page 103), should take into account any further proposals which might be put forward. In order to enable the secretariat to prepare its draft, contracting parties are invited to submit any suggestions they wish to make as soon as possible and not later than the end of February 1958.

The Executive Secretary has received new suggestions which were adopted by the Commission on Formalities in International Trade of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC document No. 131/94 of 5 December 1957) and which will be submitted for consideration to the Council of the ICC at its next session. The text of the suggestion is as follows:

"1. The GATT Recommendation or Standard Practices should, the Commission suggests, open by calling upon all contracting parties to scrutinize carefully their existing laws and regulations with a view to reducing as far as they possibly can the number of cases in which marks of origin are required. One of the main objectives sought by the ICC is in fact to limit the requirement of marks of origin to cases where such marks are really indispensable for the information of the final buyer.

"2. In this spirit, the Commission recommends that it be laid down as a general principle that marks of origin should not be required for production of capital goods, the origin of which is usually known to the buyer.

"3. The requirement should never be a general one, applicable indiscriminately to all imported goods. If marks of origin are to be required, each category of goods should be made the subject of a technical study in collaboration with the industry and the trade concerned, with a view to determining whether the mark is necessary and, if so, what form it should take."
"4. Renewed consideration should be given to the ICC's recommendation that the name of the country, and whenever possible well-known abbreviations such as USA, USSR, should be accepted as sufficient indication of the origin without the addition of any formula such as 'Made in...'. This would be a valuable simplification for trade and industry.

"5. Agreement should in any case be reached by all countries on the acceptance of a single formula, if possible in one language, which could thus be used universally by manufacturers exporting to several different countries, each importing country having, of course, the right to accept in addition other formulae in other languages if it so desires.

"6. Consideration should be given to the possibility of exempting from marks of origin all articles covered by the GATT Convention for Facilitating the Importation of Samples and Advertising Material.

"7. As regards the ICC recommendation concerning the exemption of component parts, the ICC had principally in mind (a) spare parts of equipment already imported; and (b) the separate dispatch, for reasons of practical convenience, of different parts of the same machine or machines. The ICC did not intend, however, that the exemption should necessarily be limited to these two cases. It believes in fact that the most liberal provisions should be adopted for all component parts, including those imported for purposes of assembly."