At its meeting from 28 April through 8 May, the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products continued its examination of the non-tariff barriers notified by contracting parties, as set out in GATT/IND/6 and its addenda. The barriers examined at this meeting were those contained in Addenda 4 (licensing procedures and other forms of quantitative restrictions), 5 (tax measures) and 6 (miscellaneous).

The notifications include measures maintained by a number of countries which did not find it possible to be represented at the meeting. The secretariat was asked to write to each such country requesting information on the notified measures and seeking comment on certain general questions which were raised at the meeting. The secretariat is therefore sending you this letter, annexing to it a sheet containing the questions relevant to your country.

A comment which it was agreed should be brought to the attention of developing countries was that while non-discriminatory import restrictions of various kinds could often be justified on grounds of balance-of-payments difficulties or development needs, the same could not generally be said for discriminatory restrictions. Articles I and XIII were referred to in this connection. In some countries discrimination results from arrangements under which goods in one group of countries (e.g., a currency group) are treated differently from goods of another group of countries. Elsewhere bilateral agreements providing assured entry to fixed quantities of specified goods coming from the agreement partner result in a less-favoured position for goods of all other countries. Some individual notifications draw attention to cases of this kind.
For inclusion in the report on this first examination of these barriers, it would be desirable to have your replies by 28 May. However, if you prefer to give your comments orally, the Committee's next meeting in the latter part of June will offer an opportunity to do so. An airgram convoking the meeting will specially invite attendance by developing countries, whether or not they are members of the Committee.

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