By the Recommendation of 7 November 1952 (BISD, First Supplement, page 25), the CONTRACTING PARTIES urged governments to abolish, as soon as possible, and in any case not later than 31 December 1956, all consular invoices and visas for commercial invoices, certificates of origin, manifests, etc. In addition, the CONTRACTING PARTIES requested governments which maintain consular formalities to report annually not later than 1 September on the steps they have taken to abolish such formalities (ibid., page 102).

The following paragraphs provide a brief summary of the information received from the various countries, which are reproduced in L/92 as regards the reports received in 1953, in L/279 and addenda as regards reports received in 1954. Furthermore the statements made in connexion with the recommendation on documentary requirements (L/198 and addenda) as well as explanations made to the Technical Group has been used for the preparation of this report.

1. The governments of the following countries have stated that they have no regulations requiring consular invoices or consular visas for reports from:

   Australia   Finland   New Zealand
   Austria     Germany   Norway
   Belgium     India     Pakistan
   Burma       Italy     Rhodesia and Nyasaland
   Canada      Japan     Union of S. Africa
   Czechoslovakia Luxemburg United Kingdom
   Denmark     Netherlands

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Belgium appears the first time on the list of countries not requiring consular formalities, having removed the previously provided consular formalities for caustic potash and carbonate of potash which had to be presented in connexion with the import licensing system. The United Kingdom has also been added to this list due to the fact that in practice the requirement which existed for a few cases has been discontinued in advance of the announced date of 31 December 1954.

The Technical Group thought that Italy, which has not used for many years its legal right to require consular formalities except for imports from Mexico and when doubt arises regarding the veracity of the documents, should remain in the list of countries not requiring consular formalities.

2. Several governments have reported that they do not require consular invoices or consular visas except in very special circumstances, namely:

- **Ceylon** - In the case of trans-shipped preferential goods.
- **Greece** - Goods imported through a third country have to be accompanied by a consular certificate if no certificate issued by the customs authorities is available.
- **Indonesia** - Consular invoices for imports of goods from Singapore.
- **Sweden** - Consular visas for imports for which certain health-, veterinary or other certificates of that type are required.

Ceylon has made arrangements to abolish the above mentioned requirement of a consular formality by the end of 1956. The delegate of Sweden expressed the hope that his country would be able to suppress before that time the few requirements in existence.

3. The following countries stated that they require normally the presentation of documents issued by consular authorities or endorsed by them, namely:

- **Brazil**
- **Chile**
- **Dominican Republic**
- **France**
- **Haiti**
- **Nicaragua**
- **Peru**
- **Turkey**
- **United States**

In France, it is the constant aim to restrict the cases for which consular visas may be required. For imports from Denmark, Finland, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden - countries which themselves do not require consular formalities - the requirement to present a consular visa has been suppressed.
Peru draws attention to the fact that for imports by post or by air no consular formality is required when the value of the imported goods does not exceed US $100 and that for such imports if valued over US $100 a commercial invoice endorsed with a consular visa has to be presented. Turkey recalled attention to its reservation in connexion with the adoption of the recommendation regarding imports of goods with a higher value than US $100, and for which she still is requiring a consular visa.

The Technical Group welcomed the development in the United States of a more liberal policy as regards the requirement of consular formalities, which finds its expression in the fact that consular invoices are now only required for merchandise valued over US $500, and which are subject to an ad valorem rate of duty. Prior to 7 September 1953 the exemption limit was US $100, increased earlier in 1954 to US $250. Several delegates expressed the hope that the obvious movement in the United States in the direction of and relaxation of documentary requirements will continue and will soon lead to the entire removal of consular formalities.

4. No information has been received from the governments of Cuba and Uruguay.

The Technical Group noted that some progress towards the removal of consular formalities has been made and expressed the hope that the countries which still require consular formalities will gradually reduce the existing obligations and provide for their final elimination by 31 December 1956.