TRADE DEVELOPMENT SUMMARIES

During recent months the Trade Intelligence Unit of the GATT secretariat has prepared a series of Trade Development Summaries for various countries or country groups. A start has also been made with trade summaries of individual commodities. Specimens of these summaries were circulated to delegations during the GATT Eighth Session.

Each summary follows a similar pattern. In the case of summaries of trade by country there are, first, some general economic indicators: the level of production, the terms of trade and the trade surplus or deficit and other items in the balance of payments. Secondly, there is an examination of the value and volume, direction and composition of exports. Thirdly, there is a similar analysis of imports. Finally, there is a statistical table which combines the various basic statistical series.

In order that these summaries may have a constructive value they are presented in such a way that they can be readily consulted on a comparative basis. While the resources of the secretariat are not sufficient for them to be produced and distributed at regular intervals it is hoped that both trade development summaries for particular countries and summaries of world trade in a series of commodities will continue to become available during 1954.

These summaries are guidance papers prepared for internal use by the GATT secretariat, and made available to government departments if they so desire. The summaries are not public documents and the material in them is not to be published or quoted.

Up to the end of 1953 the following had been completed, on an experimental basis:

Trade Development Summaries: Australia, Canada, Chile, France, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and Dollar Account Countries of Latin America.

Commodity Studies: Manufactured Goods, United States Imports of Coffee.

Departments to which this notification is addressed are invited to complete the form attached indicating the number of copies of each summary they would like to receive. A limited number of the experimental summaries completed in 1953 are available. At present the summaries are produced in English (except the study dealing with France which is available in English and French).

A specimen summary is included herewith.
TRADE DEVELOPMENT SUMMARIES

The Secretariat
GATT
Villa le Chêne
Geneva

1. Please arrange to send ..... copies of each trade development summary, starting in January 1954.

2. Please also send ..... copies, if available, of each experimental summary completed in 1953.

signed .............................................

address .............................................

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