Dear

I wish to refer to the code of standard practices on documentary requirements which was adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their Seventh Session (see Basic Instruments and Selected Documents, First Supplement, pages 23 and 24). In order to enable them to keep this matter under review, the CONTRACTING PARTIES have asked the governments to report not later than 1 August 1954 what steps they have taken to bring their practice into conformity with the recommendations (see loc.cit. page 101). As we have not yet received a reply from your Government on this question, I would very much appreciate if you could help us to get the information requested as soon as possible, as we have to prepare a document well in advance of the Ninth Session.

The replies received so far from the various countries have not been uniform; some simply state that the regulations are consistent or are substantially in line with the Code of Standard Practices while others give a brief but valuable description of the actual practices in force in the country concerned under the following headings:

1. documents required
2. combined invoice form
3. copies of documents
4. collection of statistical information
5. tariff classification of goods
6. weights and measures.
When we collected information on the practices followed in the various countries regarding valuation and consular formalities, we found that the compilation prepared by the secretariat was considered as extremely useful in business as well as in official circles; but there was a general view that this compilation would have been more valuable still if the replies had followed the same pattern.

Although it is appreciated that the request by the CONTRACTING PARTIES was simply to report on the steps taken to bring their practice into conformity with the recommendations, we would be grateful if the reply to be sent by your Government could contain also a brief description of the practices in force under the various headings listed above.

Yours sincerely,

J. Royer,
Deputy Executive Secretary.