Dear

The secretariat is now preparing a summary of the replies concerning documentary requirements which the contracting parties were asked to send before 1 August 1954 in accordance with a decision taken at the Seventh Session. In compiling this document, we have found that several governments have simply stated that their practices were consistent or substantially in line with the Code recommended by the CONTRACTING PARTIES, but others have accompanied this statement by a short but valuable description of their practices 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

The experience gained in the preparation of the documents on valuation and consular formalities last year has shown that these documents have been found extremely valuable both by business as well as official circles, but the general view was that these documents would have been even more valuable if the replies had been more or less on the same lines.

As we would like to produce a useful document on documentary requirements, it would help us considerably if your Customs Administration could see its way to send us a brief description on the practices presently in force. We would use this information
in the document which would then conform to the pattern set by a number of other governments in their replies.

We realize of course that the decision taken by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their Seventh Session required the government simply to report what steps they have taken to bring their practice into conformity with the recommendations. But in view of the practical interest of having similar data for the various countries I hope that you might give sympathetic consideration to my suggestion and put at our disposal additional information on the subject of documentary requirements.

Yours sincerely,

J. Royer,
Deputy Executive Secretary.