Changes suggested to W.11/33

1. Paragraph 10 of the Report concerning Marks of Origin should read:

The idea of obliging governments to recognize a single language or agreed symbols was not considered as being practicable at the present time. The Working Party considered that the use of the language of the importing country should not be compulsory if the mark is expressed in another language which is generally understood in the importing country. It was, however, of the opinion that it might be possible to limit the number of languages by recommending that the name of the country should be accepted either in English or French, at the option of the importing country, with "made in ..." or "fabriqué en ...", as appropriate.

2. Paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Report on Consular Formalities should read:

8. The Working Party discussed with the representatives of some of the countries listed in paragraphs 4 and 5 their reasons for maintaining consular requirements; the discussions were directed to finding a solution which would help these countries to overcome the obstacles to compliance with the Recommendation. Although the replies received do not give a full picture of the reasons why the governments wished to maintain consular formalities, two main reasons become clear. Firstly, the various governments take the view that consular certification provides a measure of control, especially of the export declaration concerning the origin of the product and its value. Secondly, some governments maintain these formalities for fiscal reasons.

9. In this connexion the Working Party felt that countries which maintain consular formalities might have the possibility of replacing the requirement of consular invoices, which are the source of many inconveniences to traders, by the requirement of adding a consular visa to the commercial invoice. That such solution could be considered to be a step in the right direction is indicated by the fact that some countries already do so, and that Brazil, in connexion with its tariff reform, is considering such a change.

10. However, it should be borne in mind that the object of the Recommendation is the complete abolition of all consular formalities. Countries requiring consular visas should also consider carefully whether in the context of the Recommendation for complete abolition of consular invoices and visas the addition of visas to documents given by those best acquainted with the facts (e.g. the exporter or health authorities) serves any useful purpose.