The following is the text of a letter sent by the Deputy Executive Secretary on 8 June 1962 to the permanent representatives or liaison officers of the fifteen contracting parties named in Uruguay’s request for action under Article XXIII:2.

As you will recall, the Government of Uruguay informed the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their nineteenth session of the representations which it had made to, and consultations which it had held with, a number of contracting parties under Article XXII:1 or Article XXIII:1 of the General Agreement concerning certain restrictive measures applied by them. The CONTRACTING PARTIES were requested to examine the cases under paragraph 2 of Article XXIII. On the instructions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the Council, at its meeting in February 1962, appointed a Panel to examine these cases (see C/M/9). As you will see from the attached note of 23 March 1962, the Government of Uruguay was requested to supply certain specific information to serve as a basis for the Panel’s deliberations.

In response to some of the questions posed in that note the Uruguayan authorities have confirmed that action under paragraph 2 of Article XXIII is initiated with respect to each of the fifteen contracting parties listed in paragraph 10 of document C/W/33*, including the Government of [ ].

As regards the restrictive measures to be considered, the Uruguayan authorities have referred to the table contained in document L/1662 and stated that, in principle, all the restrictions indicated therein should be the subject of consideration by the Panel. In this connexion, the Panel would like to have your confirmation that the restrictions mentioned in that document with respect to [ ] are in fact still in force and that the description of the restrictions are correct. It will be useful for the Panel if you will please indicate whether, in the judgment of your Government, the restrictions in question are applied consistently with the provisions of GATT and, if so, which are the provisions invoked. The Panel would of course welcome any further comments which your Government may wish to make on the restrictions, their administration and their effects.

The Uruguayan authorities have also supplied certain data for use by the Panel. These are being processed and those data which are of interest to your Government will be forwarded to your delegation for examination, in the manner described in paragraph 5 of the Chairman’s note, as soon as the
processing work is completed. In the meantime, it would be greatly appreciated if you could supply replies to the questions indicated above at your earliest convenience.

In view of the very heavy programme of work of the CONTRACTING PARTIES later in the year, the Chairman of the Panel has considered that the proceedings of the Panel should be started as early as possible. Provided that all the necessary material is available by that time, the present intention is that the examination of the cases will be started by the beginning of July.

For your convenience I am attaching a copy of the following papers:

List of restrictions supplied by Uruguay  L/1662
Note of the Chairman Spec(62)103