1. Working Group 4 was established by the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products in December 1969, to examine the following subjects in the Illustrative List (Annex I to document L/3298): licensing arrangements, quantitative restrictions including embargoes, bilateral agreements, voluntary restraints, motion picture restrictions including tax matters and screen-time quotas and minimum prices on textile imports. The Group met from 4 to 8 May, 3 and 8 June, under the Chairmanship of Mr. H. Colliander (Sweden).

2. The Group not only had in mind the general terms of reference in regard to the exploratory nature of its work, but wished to emphasize that in many cases the views recorded are only tentative at this stage, and that all delegations would have full latitude to supplement and clarify them when the report was brought for discussion by the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products.

3. The Group noted that its task was, as in the case of other Groups, to seek possible solutions, and that it was well placed to concentrate on possibilities for reducing and removing restrictions since the Joint Working Group had recently reviewed most of the individual notifications in the Inventory. The fact that the Council will examine the questions of procedures for keeping notifications of restrictions up to date and the provision of adequate surveillance of restrictions also facilitated concentration on reduction and removal of barriers.

4. In accordance with the desire of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, as expressed in their conclusions, that as the work of the Groups proceeds particular attention should be paid to the problems of developing countries, the Group recalled that the Joint Working Group had identified restrictions with respect to which developing countries indicated specific interest in the course of the meeting of that Group as well as the twenty-one items selected by the Group on Residual Restrictions for priority attention. At that meeting some delegations had suggested that the prompt removal, on a most-favoured-nation basis, of illegal restrictions which bore particularly on the trade of developing countries should receive the highest priority and that, where feasible, time-tables for the elimination or for the enlargement of legal quotas should be set, possibly in relation to the growth of the market, without full reciprocity being required. It was also suggested that when any legal quantitative restriction significantly affected both developing and developed countries' exports, special consideration should be given to its removal on a most-favoured-nation basis in the light of the interest of the developing countries themselves.
5. The Group noted a divergence of view as to the meaning and scope of certain essential concepts in the GATT, in particular the scope of the restrictions covered by Article XI, paragraph 1 and the scope of some of the exceptions to that Article, especially Articles XX and XXI. It was noted that the terms "legal" and "illegal" have been used variously to distinguish sometimes between measures which do or do not fall within substantive provisions of GATT on use of restrictions and on some occasions to distinguish what measures are subject to legal cover permitting deviation from GATT's rules.

6. Some delegations urged prompt and positive action to eliminate all import restrictions applied contrary to the GATT. These restrictions nullified or impaired the value of concessions that in some cases had been negotiated more than twenty years ago. In most cases, the original conditions justifying these restrictions no longer applied. Their continuance undermined the legal basis of the General Agreement. Furthermore these restrictions made it extremely difficult to resist protectionist pressures since pressure groups could cite existing violations of GATT. The following proposal was made by one delegation:

1) The prompt elimination of all illegal trade measures.

2) Where the prompt removal of illegal measures is not possible, the gradual relaxation of these measures according to a schedule so that they are completely eliminated by 1 January 1972.

3) Countries maintaining illegal restrictions after 1 January 1972 would be required to:

   a) seek waivers of their GATT obligations, or

   b) pay appropriate compensation.

4) Countries obtaining waivers would nevertheless be subject, as is customary, to the provisions of Article XXIII.

This proposal received the support of some delegations.

7. Some delegations noted that this proposal was substantially the same as that made earlier by New Zealand. The debate on the earlier proposal had shown that for a variety of reasons a proposal to remove illegal restrictions as a priority matter was somewhat unrealistic and even inequitable. Whether a restriction was or was not "legal" in GATT terms was to some extent merely a historical accident. Furthermore, if that approach was adopted it was beyond doubt that the contracting parties would exercise much ingenuity to produce legal justifications for more and more of the restrictions in force, with resulting impairment of the force of
GATT's provisions and increasing uncertainty as to which restrictions would be included in such a proposal. There would also be a tendency to shift to restrictions of other kinds, including export restraints and unbinding of tariff rates, which might be at least as harmful to trade. Several delegations also pointed to the large number of discriminatory export restraints which they regarded as disguised import restrictions at least as illegal as any others and wished to know whether such restrictions would be included in the scope of the proposal.

8. These delegations expressed a preference for a more overall approach towards liberalization which would cover all quantitative restrictions, whatever their form and both legal and illegal. This approach is set out in paragraph 10.

Quantitative restrictions including embargoes

9. In considering possible solutions which might appropriately be adopted to relax and remove quantitative restrictions and to remove embargoes, the Group's debate focussed on the search for an overall solution in which countries would take action on the restrictions which they presently maintain. The proposal regarding illegal restrictions reported in paragraph 6 was amended and changed by the suggestions of various delegations, and these proposals are set out in paragraph 10 below, which reflects a synthesis of the various comments on the proposal in paragraph 6. Although no delegation took a position in favour of this proposal as a whole, some members of the Group considered that they could accept some of its elements.

10. Under these proposals all developed countries not invoking Article XII would phase out their import restrictions on industrial products on the following lines:

(1) A maximum number of restrictions of trade significance, in particular those of special concern to developing countries, to be eliminated by some target date, e.g., 1 January 1972.

(2) Adoption of a programme of increases in quotas to be effected beginning immediately and extending possibly one or two years beyond the target time for elimination of the first group of restrictions. These increases might be stated in percentages keyed either to domestic production of the goods restricted or to amounts of the restricted products imported in past years, or might be tied to development of the internal market of the product.

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1 One developing country whose trade is adversely affected by what it regards as an illegal embargo imposed by a developed contracting party expressed a reservation on the ground that the Working Group had not sufficiently dealt with the question of embargoes.
(3) For embargoed products, the programme would include at least token quantities of imports of all restricted products to be increased up to a date of final liberalization.

(4) Any restrictions not susceptible to treatment in one of the ways indicated above would be examined to determine whether they were agreed to be consistent with one of the substantive provisions of GATT authorizing maintenance of quantitative restrictions (e.g., Articles XII, XIX, XX, XXI and not merely covered by provisions or arrangements which currently give legal cover for measures going beyond a strict interpretation of the substantive provision, as, for example existing waivers, protocols of provisional application, accession protocols, Article XXXV and the like). For any restriction not dealt with in (1) to (3) above and not found to be consistent with a substantive provision authorizing its maintenance, the maintaining country would be obliged to seek a waiver as from the end of 1971, and failing success in that effort would pay appropriate compensation. A country obtaining a waiver would nevertheless be subject to the provisions of Article XXIII.

(5) The programme would deal, inter alia, with licensing, quantitative restrictions, export restraints and would extend to all measures, whether "legal" or "illegal" however those terms might be defined.

(6) While implementing the programme, new restrictions should not be introduced.

11. Some delegations favoured another general approach covering all quantitative restrictions, legal and illegal alike, including those covered by waivers or by the special provisions of protocols of accession, such as the provisional application clause, or by recourse to Article XXXV or to other similar circumstantial provisions. This approach would cover not only import restrictions but also other quantitative restrictions, whether applied by direct or indirect methods, such as self-restraint. This general approach would be directed towards the gradual liberalization and the progressive elimination of all restrictions as possibilities arose within the framework of the general programme of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. Each developed country would contribute to this programme of liberalization proportionately with the scope of its quantitative restrictions of all types. These delegations considered that this solution was more realistic and had the merit of not excluding numerous restrictions which would remain outside the scope of other proposals; it seemed to them more consistent with the spirit of the general programme of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in the field of non-tariff barriers.

12. Various special aspects which some delegations felt should be taken into account in any overall solution are set out below:

(1) Attention was drawn to the proposal concerning developing countries, contained in paragraph 4, previously made in the Joint Working Group.
(2) Developing countries having import restrictions not formally authorized by the CONTRACTING PARTIES but which could be justified under Article XVIII:B were urged to invoke the Article and consult as one contribution to the general effort to remove quantitative restrictions. Other countries with import restrictions not now formally authorized by the CONTRACTING PARTIES should also agree to consult under procedures similar to those applicable in the case of invocation of Articles XII or XVIII:B.

(3) Some delegations expressed their serious concern about the discriminatory aspect of the restrictions maintained by some countries, and urged that such features which are inconsistent with the most-favoured-nation provisions of the General Agreement be eliminated as soon as possible.

(4) Some countries suggested that it would contribute to liberalization to draw up a note interpreting Article XXIV in the sense that the Article did not authorize discrimination by any member country, member of a regional grouping in the operation of quantitative restrictions to favour other members of a free-trade area or customs union.

(5) It was suggested that in order to avoid abuse, recourse to Article XX and XXI should be strictly confined to cases which were clearly and demonstrably consistent with the limited purposes set out in these Articles.

(6) Some delegations pointed out that a considerable reduction of the trade restrictive efforts of quantitative restrictions could be obtained if a more objective basis for establishment of quotas were used instead of the practice of allocating quotas on the basis of trade during one preceding year for goods where exports are fluctuating.

13. There was discussion of the possibility of identifying commodity sectors in which a number of countries maintain import restrictions, on the theory that one country might find it easier to relax restrictions in a sensitive sector if the action were taken concurrently with similar action in several other import markets, since the pressure of increased imports would be spread in this way rather than concentrated on a single country. There was some feeling that there might be relatively few sectors to which such a procedure would be applicable, but a number of countries felt that the idea might be examined further when the results of the Joint Working Group's review became available. In this connexion it was stated by some developing countries that such action should include products of particular export interest to them. Some delegations expressed the view that in order to avoid undue delay in the process of identification of these commodity sectors, the setting up of a target date was essential. One suggestion was that more than one commodity might be linked in such action, so that a country which stood to gain by a group relaxation in one sector might match the action by relaxing restrictions with respect to other products of which it was a potential importer, for example. Some delegations suggested that tariff action might constitute a concomitant which some countries could add to any packages attempting to deal with particular commodities, since some countries still had substantial tariff protection which could well be reduced.
Discriminatory bilateral agreements

14. Some countries maintained that discriminatory bilateral agreements were against the spirit and the letter of the General Agreement. They proposed, as a first step, that all bilateral agreements of a discriminatory nature, whether based on a clearing arrangement or providing for settlement in convertible currency, should be notified by 1 July 1970. Since the General Agreement had no provisions dealing with bilateral agreements an interpretative note or declaration should be drawn up prohibiting bilateral agreements where they have a restrictive or discriminatory effect on trade. They further proposed that all discriminatory bilateral agreements should be eliminated over a period of three years and in the meantime no such agreement should be renewed. Any contracting party maintaining bilateral agreements should consult with the CONTRACTING PARTIES as those operating under Article XII or XVIII:B consult at present in the Balance-of-Payments Committee.

15. Some countries stated that the proposal for elimination and surveillance of bilateral agreements should only be applied to developed countries. They claimed that in the case of developing countries bilateral agreements were a means to maximize trade. These agreements had provided a basis for trading with centrally-planned economies and countries having similar trading systems, had stimulated export efforts and led to diversification of exports of the developing countries concerned. In some cases, they relate to the establishment of mutually beneficial co-operation in the industrial and other economic fields. It was therefore impractical to consider elimination of these bilateral agreements. These countries asked the notifying countries to take these facts into account. Some other countries pointed out that, while bilateral agreements may bring short-term benefits to the parties concerned, they usually result in a misallocation of resources and a distortion of trade to the disadvantage of all contracting parties.

16. The question of bilateral agreements with State-trading countries was discussed. On the part of the notifying countries, it was claimed that bilateral trade agreements with countries with centrally-planned economies were maintained in order to get a more favourable trading position than that of other countries. They should, consequently, be terminated at an early date. A member of the Group representing a centrally-planned economy described the different types of trading relationships of his country. Bilateral agreements between centrally-planned countries and developing countries had proved to be beneficial to both parties and should continue to exist. Bilateral agreements with developed countries should, in his view, be eliminated. In his opinion these bilateral agreements could be abolished if most-favoured-nation treatment were granted completely to his country, which was a full contracting party to GATT.

17. Other countries pointed out that while quantitative restrictions could indeed, within a system of clearing arrangements, be used in a way as an instrument for negotiation, such a possibility no longer existed within a system of multilateral payments where the maintaining of agreements was not prompted by the desire to increase the bargaining position of the party concerned.
18. Another member of the Group stated that it would be inappropriate to pursue further the discussion in relation to bilateral agreements of this kind pending the outcome of work in other GATT bodies; and in view of the notifications on some such agreements already being provided it would be necessary to avoid duplication arising from the first proposal in paragraph 14.

19. Since quotas allocated under bilateral agreements for the purpose mainly of protecting sensitive sectors of production could, in most cases, be administered only through quantitative restrictions or on the basis of export restraints bilateral agreements should, in the opinion of some countries, be dealt with in conjunction with quantitative restrictions.

**Export restraints**

20. It was agreed to change the title in the Illustrative List from "Voluntary Restraints" to "Export Restraints" since it was claimed by some countries that the notifying countries restrain their exports because of the threat of imposition of unilateral restrictive measures by importing countries.

21. Countries against which notifications were made stated that in their view export restraints were more favourable to exporting countries than alternative trade restrictive measures which would otherwise be applied. They pointed out that levels of restrictions were known in contrast to import quotas which were not always published and that imports were generally higher under these arrangements than under unilaterally imposed quotas. The regular consultations inherent in export restraint arrangements tended to speed up the process of liberalization as compared with the liberalization of import quotas. In some cases, the exporting countries had imposed export restraints of their own accord in order to maintain quality control or to regulate competition between their exporters.

22. In reply to the point regarding consultations, countries operating export restraints maintained that in their opinion the so-called consultations were not necessarily carried out on a mutually advantageous basis and often the suggested quotas were presented to exporting countries on a "take it or leave it" basis.

23. Some countries operating export restraints considered that, particularly since such restraints were applied on a discriminatory basis, they might in certain cases have more harmful aspects than quantitative restrictions applied on a global basis. There were also cases where residual quantitative restrictions instead of being eliminated were sought to be continued by converting them into export restraints.

24. It was proposed by many delegations, including the notifying countries, that the solutions suggested for the relaxation of quantitative import restrictions should apply also for export restraints, for they were of the same character and had the same effect as quantitative import restrictions. In this context, some countries proposed that the CONTRACTING PARTIES should work out a notification and consultation procedure in order to secure proper surveillance under GATT; reference was made to the relevant suggestions put forward in the Joint Working Group.
Minimum price regulations

25. The Illustrative List included the problem of minimum prices as a condition to importation. One affected country emphasized that the practice of excluding goods priced below levels fixed in relation to prices in the importing country was unacceptable if only because of its discriminatory character. Further, the same country claimed that the system of minimum prices was inconsistent with the provisions of the General Agreement and urged its abolition at the earliest opportunity.

26. The representative of the maintaining country explained that this was a measure chosen amongst several because it was the least detrimental to trade. It was the intention to reconsider the system and, in due course, if necessary the government of his country would establish direct contact with the notifying government.

27. Another delegation supported by a group of countries, referred to a somewhat similar system applied by another contracting party to textiles and certain other goods. This so-called abnormal pricing practice had been considered in Group 2 but because it resembled a quantitative restriction had been transferred to Group 4. Imports from a particular country can be suspended pending investigation and during the interval other higher-priced goods are free to enter. This appeared to the notifying country to be a quantitative restriction not justified under GATT as it was not a regulation operated in conformity with provisions concerning anti-dumping. The representative of the maintaining country stated that a change in regulations to bring his country's law into conformity with the Anti-Dumping Code was under consideration and that meantime no use was being made of the measure in question. He hoped to supply a text of the new decree as soon as possible. It was agreed that this problem might be reverted to in Group 2 but would be retained in Group 4 for the time being.

Licensing

28. The debate of the Group on Licensing covered two issues: the extent to which and manner in which licensing operates as an import restriction and possible solutions to the barrier effects of licensing.

29. Some delegations considered that any system of import licensing constituted a barrier, either potentially or in fact, and emphasized their view that the cost, delay and uncertainty to traders which was involved in any licensing system operated as a deterrent to trade, in particular to long-term planning for promotion of exports since a threat of restrictive action continued to overhang and influence planning of manufacturers and traders. They pointed out that these uncertainties reflected actual experiences of traders who had found that licensing had been used to restrict imports, even under so-called automatic licensing systems. In their view such measures should be abolished except where necessary to implement restrictions consistent with GATT. These delegations considered that the OECD standard import procedure, developed in 1966, (see Annex 1) supported their view that licensing was a form of import restriction which should be eliminated, since that code was based on the principle that goods not subject to quantitative restriction should likewise not be subject to any licensing procedure.
30. Some other delegations were of the view that the requirement of licensing was in itself a formality no different in kind from other formalities which were in force in all GATT countries and which were generally admitted in GATT not to be restrictions. In this view, licensing could only come within the meaning of Article XI, paragraph 1, if it were shown that the effect was to restrict imports. That licensing as such was not intended to be forbidden was indicated by language in Article VIII recognizing the need to minimize the incidence and complexity of import formalities and to decrease and simplify import documentation requirements. They pointed out that the OECD procedures specifically provided in paragraph 6 that in special cases, justified by the need to carry out certain controls which could not be made in a more appropriate way, a system of automatic licences or of import certificates might be applied. In such cases the licences, visas or other equivalent documents should be issued upon request and within a maximum of five days from the deposit of the request. These provisions confirmed their view that automatic licensing was a legitimate formality permitting the attainment of various special objectives such as obtaining very expeditiously needed statistical data not otherwise available or facilitating collection of taxes or levies. Where such licences were granted without delay and sometimes in circumstances giving the administration no discretion to refuse, the requirements did not in their view constitute a restriction or barrier.

31. Countries which regarded licensing per se as a barrier to trade could not accept that licensing was necessary or desirable to accomplish such objectives and considered that other methods not harmful to trade could be found. In their view customs data, including invoice values, offered a more reliable basis for gathering statistics since traders tended to apply for licences for more goods than were currently needed in the belief that governments tended to restrict imports through licensing. Moreover, it was noted that in many countries licensing systems applied only to selected types of imported products, so that licensing could not be justified on statistical grounds.

Possible solutions

32. The debate on the nature of licensing and its effects on trade brought out a number of possibilities for reducing the barriers resulting from licensing. It was suggested that the CONTRACTING PARTIES might consider adoption of a code along the lines of Articles 7 to 14 of the OECD standard procedure to which reference had been made. These provisions dealt with the use of licensing as a means of administering quotas, dissemination to the trade of information concerning quotas and formalities, notice, application forms, institutional arrangements, allocation of quotas, rights of new importers, procedures for examination of applications, validity of licences, rights of appeal. Some delegations suggested that there were still other points in respect of which procedures for the administration of licensing goods subject to bilateral and global quotas might be improved. In their view, wherever such quotas were fixed their administration should be carried out in a manner which would facilitate importation from the exporting countries concerned and would assist them in utilizing fully the quotas allotted.
Developing countries pointed out that licensing was often applied to products supplied mainly by developing countries while similar or competing products from developed countries were exempted. Several countries, referring to several notifications in the Inventory, supported the idea that an important contribution could be made to reduction of the trade restrictive effect of licensing through better administrative procedures for licensing, and supported development of a code which might well cover certain other matters relevant to the work of other groups on non-tariff barriers, especially Group 2 (see paragraphs 4 and 5 of the OECD procedures). Further details concerning the subjects which one delegation thought might be covered appear in Annex 2.

33. One delegation supported the idea that there would be advantage in attempting to elaborate a more comprehensive code on import procedures generally, including not only the principles concerning the use of licensing to implement quantitative restrictions but also other import procedures.

34. Some delegations which regard licensing per se as an import restriction proposed that licensing requirements be eliminated by 1 January 1972 except where required to implement import restrictions consistent with GATT.

35. Most countries agreed that a licensing requirement in itself could not be said in all cases to constitute a barrier. The following criteria for import licensing requirements which are not justified by reference to a particular provision of GATT were also submitted by one delegation as a means of defining licensing requirements which might be accepted as non-restrictive:

(1) the arrangements for the receipt of applications should be published;

(2) applications should be accepted from and licences granted to all applicants without discrimination;

(3) licences should be granted upon presentation of the application by the importer;

(4) no conditions should be attached to the issue of licences.

36. Several delegations agreed that licensing arrangements which did not conform to the procedures set out in paragraph 35 should be included in any general programme for removal of quantitative import restrictions.

Motion picture restrictions

37. The notifying countries pointed out that a variety of measures were used to limit trade in motion pictures. They were concerned that any of these measures can be substituted one for the other to restrict trade and proposed a standstill with regard to all of them.
38. These countries regarded certain restrictions as inconsistent with the General Agreement, namely quantitative restrictions on the internal distribution of films, discriminatory taxes, local printing, sub-titling and dubbing requirements, and export subsidies. They proposed that all illegal restrictions be removed promptly or, if this was not possible, by 1 January 1972. Countries maintaining illegal restrictions after that date should be required to seek waivers of their GATT obligations or pay appropriate compensation.

39. Some countries suggested that although motion picture screen-time quotas are permitted under Article IV, a standstill should be agreed and ultimately screen quotas should be eliminated. They also noted that Article IV envisaged negotiations in this field.

40. One delegation pointed out that the practice of setting screen-time quotas for recorded television programmes contravened Article III which, *inter alia*, prohibits the use of "mixing regulations". Other delegations expressed the view that Article IV, in their interpretation, was also applicable to television quotas.

41. One notifying country expressed the view that subsidies tended to distort trade in films. A solution was envisaged along the lines of that proposed in Working Group 1 of the Industrial Committee for domestic aids:

(a) All contracting parties should notify their subsidies by 1 July 1970 in the form prescribed in the annex to the report by the Panel of 1960.

(b) On request, notifications should be followed by consultations among interested parties or with the contracting parties in accordance with Article XXII or, if no satisfactory solution were found, as provided for in Article XXIII.

42. Moreover, it was suggested that criteria along the following lines should be developed to ensure that film subsidies have no trade-distorting effects.

(a) No subsidies could be paid which would result in production of an entertainment film which would not otherwise have been made.

(b) Any government aids should be limited to those designed to raise the competence of film makers and increase the quality of films.

(c) Governments should not subsidize exports.

(d) There should be no discrimination in internal tax treatment in favour of domestic or of certain foreign films.

(e) Any subsidies paid should be extended to foreign producers and other film interests.
(f) Production subsidies should not be paid that cause the transfer of film production from one country to another.

43. Some delegations considered that proposals on this subject were of a technical nature and should be considered by governments before they would be in a position to give even a provisional answer.

44. One delegation, while agreeing with the principle of freedom of trade in films, said that a case could be made for a subsidization of the film industry in developing countries, at least during a transitional period.
Annex 1

OECG STANDARD PROCEDURE FOR IMPORT OF GOODS
TRADED ON PRIVATE ACCOUNT

A. General provisions

1. The present procedure applies to all imports other than those carried out by State-trading enterprises, monopolies and other government enterprises or departments, as specified in Article XVII of the GATT. It does not affect measures which may be taken in conformity with Articles XX and XXI of the GATT, or the provisions relating to quality standards, or marking regulations which importers may have to comply with under national procedures.

2. To be entitled to import, persons, firms or other bodies should not be tied to any conditions other than those which apply generally to the trade in the products in question in the country of importation; these conditions, however, should not be required of persons who import goods for their own use.

3. In the case of goods not subject to quantitative restrictions, the foreign exchange necessary for the payment of imports should be made automatically available to importers. In the case of merchandise imported under quota, the foreign exchange needed for the payment of imports should be made available to the importer on presentation of the licence or the document authorizing the import, without further formality.

4. In cases where the importing country deems necessary to be informed of the origin of the merchandise, a note of the origin on the invoice or customs declaration, or where appropriate on the import declaration, and if necessary on the application for a licence, should be considered as adequate. There should be no further systematic verification of origin, but in cases of doubt the competent authorities should accept certificates of origin made out by chambers of commerce or other organizations previously approved by the government concerned, while maintaining the right to verify the validity and accuracy of such certificates.

5. The importers should not be required to provide any other documents than the customs declaration, accompanied by a bill of lading or carriers certificate, and the invoice, together, where appropriate, with an import declaration approved by the responsible authorities. Moreover, for imports subject to licence, the production of the licence may be required. The provisions of this paragraph would not affect the power of customs authorities to proceed to supplementary verifications in cases where it is necessary to do so.
B. Products not subject to quantitative restrictions

6. No licence or any other document or formality of the same character should be required for the importation of goods which are not subject to quantitative restrictions. However, in special cases, justified by the need to carry out certain controls which could not be made in a more appropriate way, a system of automatic licences or of import certificates may be applied. In such cases, the licences, visas or other equivalent documents should be issued upon request and within a maximum of five days from the deposit of the request.

C. Products imported under global, bilateral or unilateral quotas

7. All useful information concerning quotas and formalities of filing applications for licences should be brought to the attention of possible importers in good time, notably by notices in official or private press organs (general or specialized) or by communications to trade associations concerned.

8. Importers should be given at least fifteen days in which to apply for an import licence in the case of standard commercial articles, and at least one month in the case of non-standard commercial articles. A shorter period may, however, be prescribed in special cases.

9. Applications for licences should be made on a simple and standard form to the licensing authority. Normally a single authority should be responsible in each country, but in the case of certain categories of products, these functions may also be assigned to separate authorities for the purpose of securing a more rational administration of quotas, taking account of needs of both the authorities and the importers.

10. The licensing authority may seek the advice of other government departments or technical and trade bodies regarding allocations. Where it decides to consult national economic interests for this purpose it should not limit itself to consulting trade associations of producers.

11. The authorities of the importing countries should take the necessary steps, when allocating quotas, to ensure that licences can be issued and importation effected within the periods prescribed for this purpose and to facilitate the full utilization of the quotas. Furthermore, where the size of quotas permits new importers should have the right to request a fair share of quotas.

12. If applications are examined simultaneously, not more than three weeks should lapse between the closing date for applications and the issue or refusal of the licence. If applications are examined on receipt, not more than three weeks should elapse between the receipt of the applications and the issue or refusal of the licence.
13. Licences should be valid for at least three months from their date of issue. However, a longer period of validity should be accorded when the distance of transport and communications makes this a legitimate requirement. Licences should also be easily renewable. Validity may nonetheless be for a shorter, but reasonable, period in special cases.

14. All applicants should have the right to appeal against a refusal to issue a licence, under national legislation and/or procedure of the importing country.
Annex 2

SUGGESTION PRESENTED BY ONE DELEGATION
REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPHS 32 FOR
IMPROVEMENT IN PROCEDURES FOR LICENSING

Licensing procedures should provide for the following:

1. Bilateral quotas

   (a) Imports under bilateral quotas should be allotted without import licences, on the basis of export permits to be issued by the exporting countries.

   (b) In exceptional cases where issue of import licences was considered necessary by the importing countries, these should be issued automatically on production of export permits.

2. Global quotas

   (a) Quotas should not be fragmented in small quantities and allotted to a number of parties, as this makes imports uneconomical.

   (b) The practice of allotting import licences for certain goods only to domestic producers of like goods should be discontinued and licences should be issued to all persons interested in importing.

   (c) The practice of issuing licences on condition that goods should be exported and not sold in domestic market should be discontinued.

   (d) The period of validity of the licences should not be short and should be fixed in the case of countries situated at a distance, taking into account distances of transport and difficulties of communication.

   (e) Notices for allocation of quotas should be given due publicity in official and private press organs and brought to the attention of the trade associations as well as of the governments of exporting countries, particularly of their trade representatives.

   (f) Trade representatives or export promotion bodies of the exporting countries should be kept informed about licences issued and the names of the importers to whom licences were issued.