The reports received by the secretariat from contracting parties on the steps taken towards the abolition of consular formalities have been reproduced in addenda to document L/92. The following paragraphs provide a brief summary of those replies.

1. The following governments have stated that they have no regulations requiring consular invoices or consular visas:

   Australia   Finland   New Zealand
   Austria     Germany   Norway
   Belgium     Greece    Pakistan
   Canada      India     Southern Rhodesia
   Czechoslovakia Italy     South Africa
   Denmark     Netherlands

2. Several governments have reported that they do not require consular invoices or consular visas except in very special circumstances, namely:

   Ceylon     Sweden
   Indonesia  United Kingdom

The United Kingdom Government have instituted a review of the requirements in force with a view to their withdrawal.

3. Among the governments which have reported, Haiti, France and the United States are the only ones which maintain any extensive system of consular formalities. The Working Party noticed with satisfaction that some progress was made, or is going to be made by countries in the direction of a restriction of consular formalities. The Haitian Government express their hope that the development of other sources of public revenue may enable them to relax present requirements in accordance with the recommendation of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The French Government have reduced and simplified their requirements both before and since the entry into force of the General Agreement, and acknowledge that further reductions and simplifications should be introduced. In fact, practically 50 per cent of the imports do not require a consular visa. The French Government and the United States Government consider that progress towards the
elimination of the requirements for consular invoices has been made during the past year, and that their present regulations conform to the standard practices recommended by the CONTRACTING PARTIES so far as the interim period is concerned. The United States Government also stated that under the Customs Simplification Act the Secretary of the Treasury is enabled to study the utility of certified invoices and, if feasible, to eliminate them.

4. The Working Party took note of a statement by the representative of Brazil that his Government had under consideration a new provision under which they would not require a visa on a commercial invoice in addition to the consular invoice but that they had not been able to agree to dispense with consular formalities entirely. They would have to require either a consular invoice or a consular visa on the commercial invoice. A representative of the Dominican Republic stated that his country were not at present able to dispense with their consular formalities, but that they had raised the exemption limit from 50 dollars to 100 dollars.

5. The following governments have submitted no report:

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<th>Brazil</th>
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<td>Burma</td>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
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<td>Chile</td>
<td>Peru</td>
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<td>Cuba</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
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The Working Party recommends that these countries should be requested to furnish their replies at the earliest possible date and that the replies should then be circulated to all contracting parties.

6. The Working Party renews its attention to the Recommendation passed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at the Seventh Session calling for the gradual reduction of consular formalities with a view to their entire elimination by 31 December 1959 and recommends the CONTRACTING PARTIES to advocate the implementation of this Recommendation at the earliest possible date.