1. At its October 1976 meeting the Sub-Group "Customs Matters" requested the secretariat to circulate lists of issues which participants consider important for the discussion on rules on customs valuation which might be agreed upon in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN/NTM/23, paragraph 6).

2. A communication from Nigeria has been received and is reproduced hereunder.

(a) Value slips

The purpose of value slips is to give the Bill of Entry examiners a simple method of checking entered values in appropriate cases, e.g. in respect of importations by specified importers, or importations of certain types. Nowadays, as a result of the general inflationary tendencies the world over we discover that prices of goods rise from week to week if not day to day even in the same market. Because of the over varying rise in prices of goods it is now difficult to maintain value slips that can systematically and reliably be referred to during examination of entries. This problem of maintaining useful guidelines by way of the value slips becomes more ominous in developing countries with large and varied types of importations. A way of maintaining and rendering our value slips useful for considerable length of time needs to be discussed and established in the light of the continuous rise of prices in the world market.

(b) Commercial documents

Our system of valuation is based to the greatest possible degree on commercial documents and on principles which do not cut across commercial practice. This system allows for acceptance of value based on contract practice, subject to adjustment to
take account of any circumstance differentiating the contract from that contemplated by the second schedule to the Customs and Excise Management Act of 1958. Nowadays, we have discovered that to a great extent our credence on these "commercial documents" has been dented in the most suspectful manner. Instances of FORGERY of commercial documents and outright and deliberate collusion among exporters and importers to cheat revenue of the country of importation abound at alarming rates. Means of halting these malpractices, to our mind, demand attention of international trade organizations.

(c) Valuation of used motor vehicles

Our system allows calculation of value based, in every case, on ex-factory price from where percentage deductions based on age of the vehicle are made. In very many cases, however, we find old vehicles imported without a truly certified or reliable ex-factory price or the log book. And in some of these instances, solution to such problems cannot be found locally especially in respect of vehicles without any recognized dealers here in Nigeria. In attempt to find ways out of such problems, time is wasted, trade impeded, and inconveniences are caused to members of the public or good-intentioned importers.