THIRD COMMITTEE: COMMERCIAL POLICY

SUB-COMMITTEE C - GENERAL COMMERCIAL PROVISIONS (ARTICLES 32-39)

HAITI: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE 35
(Formalities Connected with Importation and Exportation)

Paragraph 1.

In the first sentence, delete the final words "or a taxation of imports or exports for fiscal purposes"; and insert, after "on or in connection with importation or exportation should..." the words "as far as possible be limited in amount to the approximate cost of services rendered..."

Paragraph 5 (a)

Delete the words "invoices and".

Reasons

The State of Haiti derives the greater part of its revenue from taxation levied on the export of the primary commodities of its economy, such as coffee, sisal, figs, bananas, etc., and from taxation on imports.

This taxation is therefore of a purely fiscal nature and cannot, under the present system of economic development of the Republic of Haiti, be replaced by other sources of revenue.

Moreover, before it had even taken cognizance of the Geneva Draft, the Government of Haiti introduced a law imposing graduated consular charges on all goods of foreign origin. This tax is in no way restrictive, for the following reasons:

1. Many products and goods of vital importance to the population of Haiti in general are imported from abroad and are not, and will not be domestically produced.

2. By reason of its limited resources, the State of Haiti has not sufficient funds to maintain an efficient consular service abroad, the main purpose of which would be to find outlets for its products. The purpose of the tax on consular invoices is to raise the funds required to set up this consular corps.