1. In GATT/AIR/397 contracting parties were invited to submit to the secretariat, for circulation, a report on the steps taken by them during the period 1 July 1963 to 30 June 1964 in the implementation of the Programme of Action. The airgram also requested contracting parties to indicate the measures they envisaged taking in the subsequent twelve-month period to provide freer access to their markets for the products of less-developed countries.

2. To date replies have been received from Austria, Japan, New Zealand and South Africa, and the substance of these are set out below. It should be noted that the action taken by Austria in connexion with the duties on coffee and tea has already been reported in AC/11 and that recent import liberalization measures relating to products of interest to less-developed countries by France and the Federal Republic of Germany are described in COM.III/134 and COM.III/133 respectively.

Austria

3. "The following restrictions were removed on 1 June 1964 with the entry into force of the latest Austrian liberalization list which was circulated to contracting parties with document L/2229.

   Coir manufactures            Twine, cordage, rope, etc.
   Electric motors              A few types which had not been liberalized before.
   Vegetable oils              Soyabean oil, cottonseed oil, coconut oil, palm kernel oil, and palm oil - as far as they had not been liberalized before.

4. As from 1 June 1964, coir manufactures, electric motors and vegetable oils are consequently no longer subject to quantitative restrictions in Austria."

5. It should be noted that liberalization measures introduced by Austria on 1 January 1964, and of which contracting parties were apprised in L/2118, Addendum 1, covered, inter alia, bicycles and machine knotted coir carpets.
New Zealand

6. "In implementation of the Action Programme, the following changes in the New Zealand tariff came into force on 12 June 1964. (Customs Tariff Amendment Order (No.3) 1964.)

(a) Elimination of duty on tea in packages of 5 lb. net or over;
(b) Reduction of duties on tea in packages of less than 5 lb. net to:
    British Preferential - 2 pence per lb.; MFN - 3 pence per lb.;
    General - 4 pence per lb.
(c) Elimination of duty on sawn tropical hard-woods within the New Zealand tariff classification 243.310."

Japan

7. "In the period from 1 July 1963 through 30 June 1964, the Japanese Government took the following steps to provide freer access for the products of the less-developed countries:

(a) Quantitative restrictions have been removed on the following products:

(i) 44.05-4 Lumber: lauan, kruing, mersawa and other dipterocarpaceae
    (11 January, 1964)
(ii) 78.01 Lumps of lead; lead waste and scrap (29 February, 1964)
(iii) 78.02 Bars, rods, angles, shapes and section, of lead; lead wire (31 August, 1963)
(iv) 78.05 Plates, sheets and strip, of lead (29 February, 1964)
(b) Duties have been reduced or suspended as follows effective 1 April, 1964:

(i) ex 12.01-2 Groundnuts for expressing
    (duty free)
(ii) 44.03-1 Wood in the rough, whether or not stripped of its bark or merely roughed down

44.04-1 Cants, hewn squares and similar wood, cut, sawn or split, but not further manufactured

44.05-1 Wood sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled, but not further prepared, of a thickness exceeding 5 mm.

(Sub-item No. 1 of 44.03, 44.04 and 44.05 covers "Kwarin", "Tsuge" or boxwood, "Tagayasan" (Cassia Siamea, Lam), red sandal wood, rosewood and ebony wood, excluding ebony wood with white streaks) (duty suspended until 31 March, 1965)
(iii) 74.03-1-(3)-a Bars and rods, of beryllium copper alloy
74.03-3-(l) Plates, sheets and strip, of beryllium copper alloy
74.07-3-(l) Hollow bars of beryllium copper alloy
(from 30 per cent to 25 per cent)."

South Africa

8. "As indicated in South Africa's previous report reproduced in AC/1/Add.2, South Africa maintains comparatively few trade restrictions on the products with which the Action Programme is concerned. The scope for the reduction or elimination of these restrictions by South Africa is accordingly limited, particularly if it is borne in mind that South Africa, while not a less-developed country, cannot be regarded as an industrialized country.

9. South Africa nevertheless stated in the previous report that it was prepared to consult in respect of customs duties on products covered by the Action Programme, which might be causing problems for less-developed countries.

10. No requests for consultation have as yet been received."