

No. 21820

MULTILATERAL

**Agreement regarding co-operation and mutual assistance
among national customs directorates (with annexes).
Concluded at Mexico City on 11 September 1981**

Authentic texts: Spanish, Portuguese, French and English.

Registered by the Permanent Secretariat of the Agreement regarding co-operation and mutual assistance among national customs directorates, acting on behalf of the Parties, on 5 April 1983.

MULTILATÉRAL

**Accord de coopération et assistance mutuelle entre les direc-
tions nationales des douanes (avec annexes). Conclu à
Mexico le 11 septembre 1981**

Textes authentiques : espagnol, portugais, français et anglais.

Enregistré par le Secrétariat permanent de l'Accord de coopération et d'assistance mutuelle entre les directions nationales des douanes, agissant au nom des Parties, le 5 avril 1983.

MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT¹ REGARDING COOPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AMONG NATIONAL CUSTOMS DIRECTORATES

PREAMBLE

The Contracting Parties to the present Agreement,

Whereas mutual assistance and cooperation among the national customs administrations has proven to be a useful instrument on the international level in order to reach various objectives in favor of the growth and development of commerce and the expediting of transport;

That to this date many efforts have been made to institutionalize the aforementioned mutual assistance and cooperation between the countries of Latin America and especially in some of the existing processes of integration in the region, principally aimed toward the prevention, investigation and repression of customs infractions;

That, in practice, the mutual assistance and cooperation provided by the national customs administrations of Latin America are not only restricted to the aforementioned objectives but are also extended to other fields and aspects in customs that are of common interest;

That customs infractions are prejudicial to the economic, social and fiscal interests of the nations in the region, as well as to those of commerce and transport, thereby justifying the institutionalization of regional cooperation in order to prevent, investigate and repress said infractions;

That experience shows it is also convenient to institutionalize the cooperation which, in fact, is provided between national customs administrations in other aspects of customs, through an international, multilateral document, in which the different fields of action are defined, as well as the necessary methods and conditions for it to be effective;

¹ The Agreement and annexes I, V and XIII came into force on 21 January 1983, i.e., three months after three Latin American States had signed it definitively or deposited instruments of ratification, in accordance with article XVI (1) and (3):

| <i>State</i> | <i>Date of definitive signature(s) or of deposit of the instrument of ratification</i> |
|------------------|--|
| Chile | 21 October 1982 s (Accepting annexes I, V and XIII.) |
| Costa Rica | 21 October 1982 s (Accepting annexes I, V and XIII.) |
| Mexico | 21 October 1982 (Accepting annexes I, V and XIII.) |
| Nicaragua | 21 October 1982 (Accepting annexes I, V and XIII.) |

Subsequently, the Agreement came into force for the following State three months after the date of deposit of its instrument of ratification, in accordance with article XVI (2):

| <i>State</i> | <i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification</i> |
|-----------------|---|
| Argentina | 21 January 1983 (With effect from 21 April 1983. Accepting annexes I, V and XIII.) |

That the present juncture of commerce and transportation within the region, as well as the evolution of existing integration processes therein, are favorable for the institutionalization of regional-level assistance and cooperation actions, as they effectively contribute to the dynamics of commercial currents and to the facilitation of transport between the member countries;

That, finally, said institutionalization represents both an effective instrument for promoting and ensuring a coordination and simplification of national customs instruments, and a modernization of the working methods and structures of the corresponding administrations;

Therefore, the Contracting Parties agree to the following:

CHAPTER ONE. DEFINITIONS

Article I. For the application of the present Agreement, it is understood that:

a) "Customs legislation" refers to the entirety of legal and regulatory dispositions applied by the respective national administrations, concerning the importation or exportation of merchandise, and other regulations and operations of customs.

b) "Customs infraction" refers to any violation or intent of violating customs legislation.

c) "Customs crimes" refers to customs infractions which are so considered by the respective national legislations (contraband and other, for example).

d) "Import or export taxes" refers to customs fees and other fees, taxes, rates and other charges that are collected in relation to the importation or exportation of merchandise, except for the analogous charges or rates whose sum total is limited to the approximate cost of services rendered.

e) "Person" refers to a physical person as well as a legal person, unless the one may be distinguished from the other in a given context.

f) "Ratification" refers to acceptance or approval.

g) "National customs directors" refers to the chief executives of the customs administrations of the Contracting Parties to the present Agreement.

h) "Secretariat" refers to the organization responsible for assisting the national customs directors of the Contracting Parties in the administration of the present Agreement.

CHAPTER TWO. THE AGREEMENT'S FIELD OF ACTION

Article II. 1. The Contracting Parties to the present Agreement agree that their customs administrations assist each other in regard to the prevention, investigation and repression of customs infractions, according to the dispositions set forth in the present Agreement.

2. The Contracting Parties to the present Agreement also agree that their customs administrations cooperate in regard to the terms mentioned in the respective annexes, in those aspects of common interest which are distinct from those mentioned in paragraph 1.

3. The customs administration of one of the Contracting Parties may solicit the mutual assistance set forth in paragraph 1 of this Article during the development of an investigation, or within the framework of a legal or administrative proceeding undertaken by another Contracting Party. If the customs administration was not

responsible for the procedure, it cannot solicit for mutual assistance, but within the limit of responsibility attributed it under that procedure. In the same manner, if a procedure were embarked upon in the country of the required administration, this administration would provide the assistance that is being solicited, within the limits of the responsibility given it under said procedure.

4. The mutual assistance provided for under paragraph 1 of the present Article does not refer to requests for arrests, nor to the charging of fees, taxes, surcharges, fines or any other sum on account of another Contracting Party.

Article III. When a Contracting Party considers that the assistance or cooperation that is being requested might be an attempt against its sovereignty, security or other essential interests, or even be prejudicial to the legitimate commercial interests of public or private enterprises, it can refuse its approval, or give its approval provided certain conditions or demands be satisfied.

Article IV. When the customs administrations of a Contracting Party presents a request for assistance or cooperation which it could not accede to were the same request presented it by another Contracting Party, it should say so in the text of its request. The solicited Contracting Party will be completely at liberty to determine upon the actions to be taken regarding that request.

CHAPTER THREE. GENERAL METHODS OF ASSISTANCE OR COOPERATION

Article V. 1. The information, documents or other information transmitted or obtained under the application of the present Agreement should be dealt with in the following manner:

- a) They should only be used for the ends of the present Agreement, even within the framework of judicial or administrative procedures and at the discretion of the conditions stipulated by the customs administration that provided them; and
- b) They will enjoy the same measures for protecting confidential information and professional secrecy of the country that receives them, in the same manner in which these measures are undertaken in said country regarding information, documents and other information of this nature, as if they were obtained in their own territory.

2. The information, documents or other information cannot be used for any other end without the written approval of the customs administration which provides them and under the conditions which it might have stipulated, as well as under the dispositions of paragraph 1 b) of the present Article.

Article VI. 1. The communications between Contracting Parties which the present Agreement provides for will be made directly between their respective customs administrations. The customs administrations of the Contracting Parties will name the services or officials in charge of ensuring said communications, and will inform the Secretariat regarding the names and addresses of said services or officials. The Secretariat will in turn notify the other Contracting Parties regarding said information.

2. The customs administration of the Contracting Party to whom a request is being made will take all the necessary measures for complying with the request, for assistance or cooperation, according to the laws and regulations in force in its territory. In this regard, the other organisms of this Contracting Party will provide the

necessary collaboration for the fulfillment of the objectives of the present Agreement.

3. The customs administration of the Contracting Party to whom a request is made will attend to requests of assistance cooperation in the shortest amount of time possible.

Article VII. 1. The requests for assistance or cooperation which are made by way of the present Agreement will be presented in written form and will include the necessary information and will be accompanied by those documents which may be considered useful.

2. The written requests will be presented in the language of the soliciting Contracting Party. The documents enclosed in the request will be translated, should it be requested, into a language which the concerned Contracting Parties have agreed upon.

3. When, because of urgency or matter of time, the request for assistance or cooperation were not presented in written form, the Contracting Party to whom a request is made can demand a written confirmation.

Article VIII. Those expenses which might be incurred through the participation of experts and witnesses and which would result from the application of the present Agreement, will fall under the responsibility of the Contracting Party which is making the request, without detriment to reaching an agreement on different forms on financing. The Contracting Parties cannot claim restitution of other expenses which may be the result of the application of the present Agreement.

CHAPTER FOUR. OTHER MEASURES

Article IX. The Secretariat and the customs administrations will adopt the necessary measures for keeping direct communications, in order to facilitate compliance with the dispositions of the present Agreement, without injury to those which might be made through the respective Ministries of Foreign Relations.

Article X. Regarding the application of the present Agreement, those annexes in force with respect to a Contracting Party form an integral part of the Agreement.

Article XI. The dispositions of the present Agreement will not be an obstacle for a wider mutual assistance or cooperation than that agreed upon by some of the Contracting Parties.

CHAPTER FIVE. FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL CUSTOMS DIRECTORS AND OF THE SECRETARIAT

Article XII. 1. The national customs directors will be responsible for the management and development of the present Agreement.

2. For this end, the national customs directors will periodically meet, at least once a year, for the purpose of examining the progress of the application of the present Agreement and its annexes, and for adopting the guidelines and recommendations which might be considered convenient.

3. The Secretariat will exercise the following functions, based upon the guidelines and recommendations of the national customs directors:

- a) The elaboration of amendments to the present Agreement;
- b) Providing opinions about the interpretation of the dispositions of the present Agreement;
- c) Ensuring useful ties with other interested international organizations;
- d) Adopting all measures which might contribute to the realization of the general and specific objectives of the Agreement and, especially, to study and propose new methods and procedures of information, cooperation and/or assistance;
- e) Solicit and organize the technical assistance provided by specialized national and international organizations;
- f) Organize and convene the meetings of directors, as indicated in paragraph 2 of the present Article;
- g) Present an annual report of its activities to the national customs directors;
- h) Fulfill the other functions which the national customs directors deem convenient.

4. In order to best fulfill the functions which have been indicated in the preceding paragraph, the Secretariat may convene technical reunions for the officials or directors of the offices in charge of the different cooperation and assistance actions referred to in the present Agreement and its annexes.

5. The Secretariat to which the present Agreement refers will be administered by the General Customs Directorate (Dirección General de Aduanas) of Mexico.

[*Article XIII.*] The national customs directors will approve the rules for their meetings. Within these rules it will be agreed that, for the purposes of voting, each annex will be considered as a different Agreement.

CHAPTER SIX. FINAL DISPOSITIONS

Article XIV. In regard to the interpreting or applying of the present Agreement, any differences between two or more of the Contracting Parties will be resolved through direct negotiations among said Parties, which will inform the Secretariat regarding the origin of the difference and the solution found for it.

Article XV. 1. Any Latin American State, as well as Spain and Portugal, may become a Contracting Party to the present Agreement:

- a) By subscription, without reservations of ratification;
- b) Presenting the ratification instrument after having signed it under reservation of ratification; and
- c) By adherence to it.

2. The present Agreement is open for the signature of the States referred to in paragraph 1 of the present Article, in the main office of the Secretariat.

3. After its coming into force, the present Agreement will remain open for the entry of those States that are indicated in paragraph 1, should they request it.

4. Each one of the States referred to in paragraphs 1 and 3 of the present Article will, at the moment of signing or ratifying the present Agreement, indicate their acceptance of annexes I, V and XIII. Later on, they may indicate to the Secretariat their acceptance of one or more additional annexes.

5. The instruments of ratification or acceptance will be presented unto the Secretariat.

Article XVI. 1. The present Agreement will be in force three (3) months after three (3) of the States mentioned in paragraph 1 of Article XV have signed it without reserve of ratification, or after their deposit of their instrument of ratification.

2. In regard to the signing of the present Agreement by any Contracting Party without reservation of ratification, which would ratify it or, according to paragraph 3 of Article XV agree to it, after its signing by three (3) States without reservation of ratification or by depositing their instrument of ratification, the Agreement will be in force three (3) months after said Contracting Party had signed it without reservation of ratification or deposited its instrument of ratification or agreement, depending on the case.

3. Any annex to the present Agreement different to annexes I, V and XIII will be in force three (3) months after two (2) States had accepted said annex. With respect to any Contracting Party which accepts an annex after its acceptance by two States, said annex will be in force three (3) months after this Contracting Party has indicated its acceptance. However, no annex will be in force with respect to a Contracting Party before the Agreement itself in regard to that Contracting Party.

Article XVII. No reservations to the present Agreement will be accepted.

Article XVIII. 1. The present Agreement will have an unlimited duration. However, any Contracting Party may renounce it after the date in which it comes into force, as determined by Article XVI.

2. The renunciation should be notified to the Secretariat, in writing.

3. The renunciation will take effect six (6) months after its being received by the Secretariat.

4. The dispositions of paragraphs 2 and 3 of the present Article will also be applicable with respect to the annexes of the Agreement. At any time after the date in which it comes into force, as indicated in Article XVI, any Contracting Party may negate its acceptance of one or more annexes, except for annexes I, V and XIII, whose acceptance is obligatory. The Contracting Party which negates its acceptance of all the annexes will be considered as if it had denounced the entire Agreement; for the effects of this disposition, annexes I, V and XIII will be considered as a single annex.

5. Any Contracting Party which denounces the Agreement or which negates its acceptance of one or more annexes will still be subject to the dispositions under Article V of the present Agreement, as long as it keeps information and documents or in fact has received assistance and/or cooperation from any other Contracting Party.

Article XIX. 1. The national customs director and/or the Secretariat may recommend amendments to the present Agreement.

2. The text of each recommended amendment will be communicated to all the Contracting Parties of the present Agreement by the Secretariat.

[3. Any proposed amendment communicated in accordance with the paragraph above shall enter into force in respect of all the Contracting Parties two (2) months after the expiry of a one (1) year period following the date of the communication of the proposed amendment, provided that, during that period no objection to the said proposed amendment has been transmitted to the Secretariat by a Contracting Party.

4. If an objection has been transmitted to the Secretariat by a Contracting Party before the expiry of the one (1) year period mentioned in paragraph 3 of the present article, the proposed amendment will be considered as not accepted and will be without effect.]¹

Article XX. 1. Any Contracting Party which ratifies or accepts the present Agreement will be considered as having accepted the amendments in force at the date upon which its instrument of ratification or acceptance has been received.

2. Any Contracting Party which accepts an annex will be considered as having accepted the amendments to said annex which have been in force on the date in which it notifies the Secretariat of its acceptance.

Article XXI. The Secretariat will notify the Contracting Parties of the present Agreement and the General Secretary of the United Nations Organization, of the following:

- a) The signatures, ratifications, acceptances and notifications mentioned in Article XV of the present Agreement;
- b) The date upon which the present Agreement and each of its annexes will be in force, according to Article XVI;
- c) The renunciations according to Article XVIII;
- d) The amendments which have been considered as accepted according to Article XIX, as well as the date of their coming into force.

Article XXII. From the moment of its coming into force, the present Agreement will be registered in the Secretariat of the United Nations Organization, according to Article 102 of the Charter of said Organization.

The original document of the present Agreement, the text of which is in Spanish, Portuguese, French and English and are equally authentic, will be deposited in the Secretariat, which will provide certified copies to each of the States mentioned in paragraph 1 of Article XV of the present Agreement.

¹ Owing to a clerical oversight, paragraphs 3 and 4 do not appear in the authentic English text. The text between brackets is a translation provided by the Secretariat of the United Nations on the basis of the authentic French, Portuguese and Spanish texts — A la suite d'une erreur matérielle, les paragraphes 3 et 4 ne figurent pas dans le texte authentique anglais. Le texte entre crochets est une traduction effectuée par le Secretariat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies sur la base des textes authentiques français, portugais et espagnol.

The present Agreement is signed in Mexico City the 11th September of the year 1981, in a single copy written in the Spanish language, in the presence of Mr. David Ibarra, Secretary of the Treasury and Public Credit of the United Mexican States, whose signature appears as that of Witness, and with the assistance of the representatives of the described International Organisms.¹

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| ARGENTINA: | JUAN CARLOS MARTÍNEZ |
| HAITI: | WILLIAM BONHOME |
| MEXICO: | GUILLERMO RAMÍREZ HERNÁNDEZ |
| PARAGUAY: | MIGUEL MARTÍN GONZÁLEZ AVILA |
| DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: | TEÓFILO GARCIA GONZÁLEZ |
| URUGUAY: | DANTE BARRIOS DE ANGELIS |

ANNEX TO THE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN NATIONAL CUSTOMS DIRECTORATES, FORMULATED DURING THE SECOND REUNION OF NATIONAL CUSTOMS DIRECTORS OF LATIN AMERICA

The Representatives of the countries which subscribe to this Annex, who consider that the terms and conditions described in the forementioned Agreement satisfy the basic needs of assistance and mutual co-operation among the customs services of different nations, maintaining the inherent autonomy for the customs operation of each country, affix their signatures to the Agreement and agree to its terms, and they pledge to submit the Agreement for the consideration of the competent authorities of their respective countries.

1. Brazil:
2. Colombia:
3. Costa Rica:
4. Cuba:
5. El Salvador:
6. Honduras:
7. Nicaragua:
8. Panama:
9. Spain:

¹ Central American Integration Secretariat, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Latin American Integration Association, Organization of American States, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and United Nations Development Programme (information provided by the Permanent Secretariat of the Agreement regarding co-operation and mutual assistance among national customs directorates).

ANNEX I

PROVIDING NOTIFICATION OF ASSISTANCE AND/OR COOPERATION

1. The customs administration of a Contracting Party will officially and confidentially notify the customs administration of the interested Contracting Party all the significant information which comes to its attention in the normal framework of its activities and through which it might be supposed that a serious customs infraction might be committed in the territory of that Contracting Party. The information to be communicated refers especially to the movement of persons, merchandise or means of transportation.

2. Should the customs administration of a Contracting Party deem it useful, it will officially and confidentially provide the customs administration of another Contracting Party with documents, information or acts which support the information provided under the application of paragraph 1 of this annex, in the form of original or certified copies.

3. The customs administration of a Contracting Party will officially and confidentially provide the customs administration of another Contracting Party which is directly concerned, with the information which it might deem useful in reference to customs infractions and, especially, in regard to new means or methods used to commit them.

4. The national customs administrations of the Contracting Parties will officially provide the greatest possible cooperation and assistance in the various fields, aspects or matters of interest from a customs point of view.

ANNEX II

IN REGARD TO PROVIDING INFORMATION FOR DETERMINING THE RIGHTS
AND TAXES IMPOSED ON IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

1. Upon the request of the customs administration of a Contracting Party, the customs administration of another Contracting Party will provide it with the information at its disposal which might help in precisely determining the rights and taxes for imports and exports.

2. The solicited Contracting Party must, according to the situation and in response to the request, provide the following information or documents at its disposal:

- a) With respect to the value of the merchandise at customs: The invoices presented to the customs of the importing or exporting country or the copies of said invoices which may or may not have been authenticated by customs, according to the circumstances; the documents which evidence the prices in force regarding imports or exports; a sample or a copy of the declaration of value made at the moment of the import or export of the merchandise, or a copy of the import or export customs document, the commercial catalogues, current prices, etc., published in the exporting country or in the importing country; the national criteria used for interpreting or applying the norms established for determining the customs value of the merchandise;
- b) With respect to the tariff situation of the merchandise: The analyses made by the laboratory services in order to determine the tariff situation of the merchandise; the declared tariff position, be it for imports or exports; the national criteria used for interpreting and applying the adopted tariff terminology;
- c) With respect to the origin of the merchandise: The declaration of origin made during export, when such a declaration was necessary; the institutions or organizations authorized for issuing certificates of origin; and
- d) With respect to the customs system under which the merchandise in the export country found itself: In customs transit, in customs deposit, in temporary admission, in a duty free zone, in free circulation, etc.

ANNEX III

PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT CONTROLS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF PROHIBITIONS AND STATISTICAL MOVEMENT

1. Upon receiving the request of the customs administration of a Contracting Party, the customs administration of another Contracting Party will provide it with the information related to the following aspects:

- a) The authenticity of the documents issued or visé by official organizations, presented in support of a merchandise declaration, to the customs authorities of the requesting Contracting Party;
- b) The legally made exportation from the territory of the requesting Contracting Party, of imported or to be imported merchandise in the territory of the soliciting Contracting Party;
- c) The required, legally made importation made in the territory of the Contracting Party, or merchandise exported to the territory of the soliciting Contracting Party;
- d) The merchandise whose importation, exportation or transit were forbidden in its territory;
- e) That merchandise recognized as an object of illegal traffic between their territories;
- f) The customs tax exemptions which would be favorable to the import or export of merchandise in its territory; and
- g) The requirements and conditions demanded for the customs transit in its territory, such as customs seals or bindings, guarantees on demand, enterprises or persons, etc.; and
- h) Import or export statistics.

2. In the same manner, upon the receipt of a request from the customs administration of a Contracting Party, the customs administration of another Contracting Party can prohibit, or request from whoever is responsible to prohibit, the exportation of merchandise whose importation [is] prohibited in the territory of the soliciting Contracting Party, and vice versa.

ANNEX IV

SPECIAL SURVEILLANCE ESTABLISHED BY REQUEST FROM ANOTHER CONTRACTING PARTY

Upon receiving a request from the customs administration of a Contracting Party, the customs administration of another Contracting Party will, within the framework of its responsibilities and possibilities, exercise special surveillance during a predetermined period, and will notify the customs administration of the soliciting Contracting Party of the results of this surveillance:

- a) In regard to the movements of certain people entering and leaving their territory, of whom there might be reason to suppose they are habitually dedicated to committing customs infractions in the territory of the soliciting Contracting Party;
- b) In regard to the movement of certain merchandise indicated by the customs administration of the soliciting Contracting Party, destined to or leaving from the territory of this Contracting Party, which [is] the object of a major illegal traffic;
- c) In regard to certain places which would have been merchandise deposits, which would allow for the supposition that said deposits would be used for feeding an illegal import traffic in the territory of the Contracting Party; and
- d) In regard to certain vehicles, vessels, aircraft or other means of transportation, of which there were reason to suppose they were being used for committing customs infractions in the territory of the soliciting Contracting Party.

ANNEX V

COOPERATION IN REGARD TO FACILITATING THE TRAFFIC OF MERCHANDISE
AND/OR PERSONS ACROSS A COMMON BORDER

1. Upon receiving the request of the customs administration of a Contracting Party, the customs administration of another Contracting Party will provide the list of employees of the customs along the entire length of the common border, indicating their responsibilities, time schedules and habitual routes and roads of access to these customs, as well as any later modification of the information which has been provided.

2. In the same manner, both Contracting Parties will attempt to coordinate the functions of these customs, harmonizing their responsibilities and work schedules and attempting to juxtapose the respective services in common locales, and that the control of vehicles and baggage be made through unified procedures.

3. Upon receiving the request of the customs administration of a Contracting Party, the customs administration of another Contracting Party will prohibit or request that whoever is responsible prohibits the exportation of merchandise destined to the territory of the soliciting Contracting Party, when the customs to which this merchandise is destined were not competent to process it.

ANNEX VI

INVESTIGATIONS AND NOTIFICATIONS DONE AT THE REQUEST
AND ON ACCOUNT OF A CONTRACTING PARTY

1. Upon receiving the request of the customs administration of a Contracting Party, the customs administration of another Contracting Party, acting within the framework of the laws and regulations in force in its territory, will effect investigations for obtaining elements of proof related to a customs infraction which were the object of investigations in the territory of the soliciting Contracting Party, will collect the depositions of those people being witnesses or experts, and will provide the results of that investigation to the customs administration of the soliciting Contracting Party, as well as the documents or other elements of proof.

2. Upon receiving the written request from the customs administration of a Contracting Party, the customs administration of another Contracting Party, acting within the laws and regulations in force in its territory, will notify those interested persons who are residents in its territory, or will notify them through the responsible authorities, of all acts or decisions emanating from the soliciting Contracting Party regarding all matters related to the field in which the present Agreement will be applied.

ANNEX VII

DEPOSITIONS MADE BY CUSTOMS OFFICIALS BEFORE COURTS ABROAD

When a simple written deposition [is] not enough and the customs administration of a soliciting Contracting Party requested it, the customs administration of a Contracting Party will authorize its officials to present a deposition before the courts in the territory of the soliciting Contracting Party, within the realm of possibility, as witnesses or experts in a matter related to a customs infraction. The request for an appearance before a court will specify the matter and the capacity in which the official must present his deposition. The customs administration of the Contracting Party which accepts the request will determine the limitations within which the officials must keep their depositions, if such were the case, in the authorization provided by it.

ANNEX VIII

THE PRESENCE OF A CONTRACTING PARTY'S OFFICIALS
IN THE TERRITORY OF ANOTHER CONTRACTING PARTY

1. Upon receiving a written request from the customs administration of a Contracting Party for the investigation of a specific customs infraction, the customs administration of another Contracting Party will, when it deems appropriate, authorize the officials which have been especially designated by the soliciting Contracting Party, to research the documents, registries and other documents or pertinent information aids in their offices, to make copies or extract from them the information or parts of information relating to said infraction.

2. In order to apply the dispositions of the preceding paragraph, all possible assistance and cooperation will be provided to the officials of the soliciting Contracting Party in order to facilitate their investigations.

3. Upon receiving the written request from the customs administration of a Contracting Party, the customs administration of another Contracting Party will, when it so deems appropriate, authorize the officials of the soliciting administration to be present in the territory of the required Contracting Party, on the occasion of the investigation or of the verification of a customs infraction of interest to the soliciting Contracting Party.

ANNEX IX

PARTICIPATION IN INVESTIGATIONS ABROAD

When both Contracting Parties deem it appropriate, the officials of the customs administration of a Contracting Party will participate in investigations made in the territory of another Contracting Party, should this last Contracting Party so request.

ANNEX X

CENTRALIZATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT CUSTOMS CRIMES

1. The customs administrations of the Contracting Parties of the present Annex will provide the Secretariat with the information foreseen in said Annex, insofar as said information would be of interest on the international level.

2. The Secretariat will elaborate and update a central file of the information provided by the Contracting Parties, and will use the data contained in this file for elaborating summaries and studies related to new or already established trends in customs crimes. It will periodically revise the file in an attempt to eliminate the information it might consider as being dated or useless.

3. The customs administrations of the Contracting Parties will provide the Secretariat with additional information which might be necessary for elaborating the summaries and studies mentioned in paragraph 2 of the present Annex, should it so request and under the conditions of the Agreement and the present Annex.

4. The Secretariat will provide the special information found in the central file to the services or officials which have been designated by name by the customs administrations of the Contracting Parties, insofar as this be considered useful, as well as the summaries and studies mentioned in paragraph 2 of the present Annex.

5. The Secretariat will, upon request, inform the Contracting Parties of any other information at its disposal in reference to the present Annex.

6. The Secretariat will recognize the restrictions to the availability of the information, as indicated by the Contracting Party which provided said information.

7. Any Contracting Party which had provided information will have the right to demand that it eventually be stricken from the central file and, given the case, of any other dossier of a Contracting Party to which said information had been provided and which would no longer be used.

8. The object of the notifications to be made will be to provide information related to the following:

- a) Methods or systems used for committing customs crimes, including the use of hidden means, which would be of special interest on the international level. The Contracting Parties will indicate all the known cases of the use of each method or system, as well as new or unusual methods for discovering the tendencies that are made evident in this field;
- b) Vehicles and other means of transport, of whatever type, which might be used to commit customs crimes. In principle, only that information related to vehicles and other means whose interest is considered on the international level should be provided; and
- c) The seizure of merchandise other than vehicles or other means of transport whose value [was] in excess of 10,000 U.S. dollars and the identification of either natural or legal persons who committed an infraction, that present an interest at an international level. This sum will be periodically updated by the Contracting Parties to this Annex.

9. Within the realm of possibility, the following information is to be provided;

A) *Methods or systems used*

- a) Description of the methods and systems used to commit customs crimes;
- b) Eventually, and if possible, the description of the hideout, with a photograph or sketch;
- c) Description of the merchandise involved;
- d) Nature and description of the lies, falsifications or imitations committed; the purposes to which customs seals, documents, plates, etc., have been used, be they false, falsified or limited;
- e) Other observations, especially the circumstances under which the crime was discovered; and
- f) The Contracting Party which provided the information (including reference numbers).

B) *Vehicles and other means of transport used*

- a) Name and brief description of the vehicle or means of transport used (model, characteristics, tonnage, weight, registration number, pattern, etc.). When necessary, provide the information found in the certificate or seal of approval of the containers or vehicles, whose technical conditions would have been approved according to the terms of an international agreement, as well as those indications relative to any manipulation of the seals, customs stamps, bolts, bindings, or other parts of the containers or vehicles;
- b) Name and address of the enterprise or company which operated the vehicle or means of transport;
- c) Banner or nationality of the vehicle or means of transport;
- d) Port of registry, and, if it were different, base port, place of registry issuance, etc.;
- e) Name and nationality of the conductor and, if applicable, those of other crew members, fortuitously responsible;
- f) Type of crime, indicating the merchandise which was apprehended;
- g) Description of the hideout (with a photograph or sketch, if possible) as well as the circumstances of its discovery;

- h) Other observations (number of times in which the vehicle or means of transportation, company or transporting firm or person which used the vehicle or means of transportation, in any manner, in which it had participated in criminal activities, etc.); and
 - i) Contracting Party which provided the information (including reference number).
- C) *Apprehensions of merchandise other than the vehicles or other means of transport, and information of the corresponding violators*
- a) Nature and value of the apprehended merchandise;
 - b) Circumstances of their apprehension;
 - c) Judicial proceedings that were followed;
 - d) Sentence and amount of the fine to be applied;
 - e) Names, surnames, addresses and nationalities of the violators if they were natural persons, and name of firm and names and addresses of the directors or principal employees, should it be a case of legal persons; and
 - f) Contracting Party which supplied the information (including reference number).

ANNEX XI

ACTION AGAINST CUSTOMS CRIMES RELATED TO NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES

1. The dispositions of the present Annex will not be an obstacle to the application of the measures in force, at the national level, in regard to coordination of action by competent authorities in the fight against drug abuse and psychotropic substances. Neither will they be an obstacle but they will complement the application of the 1951 Convention's¹ dispositions on narcotics [and] the Convention's 1971² disposition on psychotropic substances by the Contracting Parties of said Conventions who also accept the present Annex.

2. The dispositions of the present Annex, relative to customs crimes on narcotics and psychotropic substances are applied equally in pertinent cases, and in the measure in which the customs administrations are competent in this respect, to the financial operations connected to such crimes.

Interchange of letters

3. The customs administrations of the Contracting Parties will communicate by letter and confidentially and in the shortest time possible, to the other customs administrations who may have direct interest, all that information at their disposal regarding:

- a) Operations in which a customs crime is verified or suspected regarding narcotics or psychotropic substances as well as those operations which may be related to the commission of such crimes;
- b) Persons dedicated to or, in the degree in which national legislation permits, persons suspected of dedicating themselves to the operations mentioned above in paragraph a) as well as vehicles, vessels, aircraft and other means of transportation used or suspected of being used for said operation;
- c) New means or methods used for committing customs crimes related to narcotics or psychotropic substances; and
- d) Products recently made or used as narcotics or psychotropic substances which were objects of such crimes.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, p. 151. See also vol. 557, p. 280 (corrigendum to vol. 520, p. 309); vol. 570, p. 346 (procès-verbal of rectification of the authentic Russian text), and vol. 590, p. 325 (procès-verbal of rectification of the authentic Spanish text).

² *Ibid.*, vol. 1019, p. 175.

Requesting aid in regard to surveillance

4. On the request from the customs administration of a Contracting Party, the customs administration of the other Contracting Party, within its competence and ability, will exercise special surveillance measures during a determined period:

- a) Regarding the movements of those persons about whom there may be reasons to believe that they habitually commit customs crimes of narcotics or psychotropic substances in the territory of the soliciting Contracting Party, especially regarding entry and exit from their territory;
- b) Regarding movements of narcotics or psychotropic substances indicated by the customs administration of the soliciting Contracting Party, which could be the object of important illegal traffic destined to, or on leaving the territory of said Contracting Party;
- c) Regarding certain places where there might be deposits of narcotics or psychotropic substances which may infer that said deposits were used to feed an illegal import traffic in the territory of the soliciting Contracting Party; and
- d) Regarding determined vehicles, vessels, aircraft or other means of transport about which there was reason to believe that they were used to commit customs crimes of narcotics or psychotropic substances in the territory of the soliciting Contracting Party, and will communicate their results to the customs administration of the soliciting Contracting Party.

*[Investigations concluded at the request
and on behalf of another Contracting Party*

5. At the request of the customs administration of a Contracting Party, the customs administration of another Contracting Party, acting in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in its territory, will conduct investigations for the purpose of obtaining evidence on customs offenses, concerning illicit traffic in drugs or psychotropic substances, which are being investigated in the territory of the soliciting Contracting Party; it shall record the statements of those questioned in connection with these offenses, as well as the testimony of witnesses and experts, and it shall communicate the results of its investigations and transmit all documents and evidence to the customs administration of the soliciting Contracting Party.¹

*Intervention of the officials of one Contracting Party
in the territory of the other Contracting Party*

6. When a simple, written declaration is not sufficient and the customs administration of the Contracting Party requests it, the customs administration of the other Contracting Party will authorize its officials, in accordance with its possibilities, to declare before the courts of law of the soliciting Contracting Party, as witnesses or experts in a matter relative to customs violations on narcotics or psychotropic substances. The petition for appearance will especially determine in what matter and in what terms the official should testify. The customs administration of the Contracting Party who accepts the petition will determine, given the case, according to its authority that he facilitate the extent within which their officials should maintain their dispositions.

7. On written petition of the customs administration from a Contracting Party, the customs administration of the other Contracting Party will authorize, when it so deems appropriate, according to its authority and possibilities, the officials of the soliciting administration to be present in the territory of the petitioning Contracting Party on the occasion of the investi-

¹ Owing to a clerical oversight, paragraph 5 does not appear in the authentic English text. The text between brackets is a translation provided by the Secretariat of the United Nations on the basis of the authentic French, Portuguese and Spanish texts — A la suite d'une erreur matérielle, le paragraphe 5 ne figure pas dans le texte authentique anglais. Le texte entre crochets est une traduction effectuée par le Secrétariat des Nations Unies sur la base des textes authentiques français, portugais et espagnol.

gation or the verification of customs violations regarding narcotics or psychotropic substances which concerns the soliciting Contracting Party.

8. When the two Contracting Parties consider it appropriate and under consideration of the laws and regulations in force in their respective territories, the officials of the customs administration of a Contracting Party will, on the request of the other Contracting Party, participate in the investigations made in the latter Contracting Party's territory.

Centralization of information

9. The customs administrations of the Contracting Parties of the present Annex will communicate to the Secretariat the information provided for in the first and second parts insofar as said information will be of interest on the national level.

10. The Secretariat will establish and update a central file of information furnished it by the Contracting Parties and will use the data in this file to make summaries and investigations related to the new trends or those already established in matters of customs violations on narcotics or psychotropic substances. It will periodically conduct a classification to remove information which was apparently useless or out of date.

11. The customs administrations of the Contracting Parties will provide the Secretariat, on request and under the reservation of the other provisions of the Agreement and of the present Annex, the complementary information which would be necessary for making the summaries and investigations mentioned in paragraph 10 of the present Annex.

12. The Secretariat will advise the services or officials which have been named by the customs administrations of the Contracting Parties, the special information found in the central file to the extent that such communication is considered useful, as well as the summaries and investigations mentioned in paragraph 10 of the present Annex.

13. Unless indicated otherwise by the Contracting Party which transmits the information, the Secretariat will likewise communicate to the services or officials designated by name by the other member States, to the appropriate bodies of the United Nations, to the International Organization of Criminal Police (INTERPOL), as well as to international organizations with whom agreements have been made in this regard, the information relative to customs violations on narcotics and psychotropic substances which figure in the central file to the degree that this communication is considered useful, as well as the summaries and investigations which may have been carried out in this regard in the application of paragraph 10 of the present Annex.

14. The Secretariat will communicate, upon request, to a Contracting Party who shall have agreed to this Annex, any other information at its disposal within the framework of the centralization of information envisaged in this Annex.

First part of the central file: people

15. The purpose of the notices served in agreement with this part of the central file will be to provide information relative to:

- a) Persons who have been definitively sentenced for customs violations regarding narcotics or psychotropic substances; and
- b) Eventually, to the persons suspected or arrested in customs *flagrante delicto* violations on narcotics or psychotropic substances in the territory of the Contracting Party responsible for serving notice, even if no judicial procedure shall have been carried out.

It is hereby understood that the Contracting Parties, who shall have abstained from giving the names and descriptions of the people in question because their own laws prohibit it, will at all events forward a notice indicating the greatest possible information indicated in this part of the central file.

16. The information to be furnished is essentially the following:

- a) Surname.
- b) Forenames.
- c) Maiden name, if applicable.
- d) Alias or nickname.
- e) Occupation.
- f) Place of residence.
- g) Date and place of birth.
- h) Nationality.
- i) Country of residence and country in which the person has resided during the last 12 months.
- j) Nature and number of identification papers including dates and country where issued.
- k) Personal traits.
 1. Sex.
 2. Height.
 3. Weight.
 4. Build.
 5. Hair.
 6. Eyes.
 7. Complexion.
 8. Special marks.
- l) Type of violation.
- m) Brief description of violation (indicating, amongst other information, the character, quantity and origin of the merchandise, carrier and shipper) and under what circumstances it had been discovered.
- n) Character of the sentence handed down.
- o) Other observations including the languages spoken by the person in question, and prior sentences, if the administration should have knowledge of such.
- p) The Contracting Party that supplies the information (including reference number).

17. As a general rule, the Secretariat will furnish the information concerning the first part of the central file, at least to the country of the violator or suspect, to the country where he was domiciled and to the countries where he had resided within the last 12 months.

*Second part of the record file: methods, systems, vehicles
and other means of transportation used*

18. Notifications having been made in this part of the central file will be to furnish information related to:

- a) The methods or systems of committing customs violations concerning narcotics and psychotropic substances, including means of concealment, in all cases taking special interest on the international level. The Contracting Parties will indicate all known cases of the use of each method or system of violation as well as the new or unusual methods so as to detect new trends in this field.
- b) Any other type of vehicle or means of transportation used to violate customs regulations concerning narcotics or psychotropic substances. In principle, only that information relative to matters considered to be of interest on an international level shall be communicated.

19. The information to be furnished essentially includes the following:

A) *Methods or systems used*

- a) Description of the methods or systems used to commit customs violations;
- b) Description of the hiding place, if any, with photograph or sketch, if possible;
- c) Description of the merchandise in question;
- d) Other remarks: indicate especially the circumstances in which the violation was discovered; and
- e) Contracting Party that provides the information (including reference number).

B) *Vehicles and other means of transportation used*

- a) Name and brief description of the vehicle or means of transportation used (model, tonnage, weight, registration, characteristics etc). When pertinent, furnish information found in the licence or seal of approval of the containers or vehicles the technical conditions of which shall have been approved under the terms of an international agreement, as well as indications concerning all handling of seals, customs-house marks, bolts, bindings of the closing device mechanism, or of other parts of the containers or vehicles;
- b) Name of the concern or company which operates the vehicle or means of transportation;
- c) Nationality of vehicle or other means of transportation;
- d) Port of registry and if other, home port; place of issue of registry, etc.;
- e) Name and nationality of captain or driver (and if such were the case, names of the other crew members possibly responsible);
- f) Type of violation, indicating the merchandise seized;
- g) If possible, description of the hiding place, if any (with photograph and/or sketch, if possible), as well as the circumstances under which the same was discovered;
- h) Country of origin of the merchandise seized;
- i) First port or place of loading;
- j) Last port or port of destination;
- k) Stops or ports of call between those indicated in *i*) and *j*);
- l) Other remarks (number of times in which the vehicle or means of transportation, transport concern or company or persons who operate the vehicle or means of transportation under any condition, shall have taken part in any criminal activities, etc.), and
- m) Contracting Party who furnishes the information (including reference number).

ANNEX XII

ACTIONS AGAINST CUSTOMS VIOLATIONS RELATIVE TO ART OBJECTS, ANTIQUITIES AND OTHER CULTURAL EFFECTS

1. The provisions of the present Annex refer to art objects and antiquities as well as other cultural effects, whether religious or secular, considered important to archaeology, pre-history, literature, art or science, as defined in article 1, paragraphs *a*) to *k*) of the UNESCO Convention relative to measures to take in order to prohibit and prevent importation, exportation and transportation of illegal property of cultural effects (Paris, 14 November 1970),¹ insofar as said art objects and antiquities and other cultural effects were the objects of customs

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 823, p. 231.

violations. The application of the measures in force will be no obstacle at the national level regarding cooperation with national agencies for the protection of cultural patrimony. They will complement, insofar as customs is concerned, the application of provisions of the UNESCO Convention for Contracting Parties to this Agreement [who] hereby accepted the present Annex.

2. The provisions of the present Annex relative to customs violations regarding art objects and antiquities and other cultural effects are applied equally, to the financial operations connected with such violations in the appropriate cases and to the extent in which the customs administrations were competent in this regard.

Exchange of information

3. The customs administrations of the Contracting Parties will automatically communicate by official letter, and in the shortest time possible, to the other customs administrations likely to be directly interested, all information at their disposal regarding:

- a) Operations which were confirmed as, or suspected to have constituted, customs violations regarding art objects and antiquities and other cultural effects as well as other operations appearing appropriate for committing such violations;
- b) Persons engaged, or to the extent that national legislation permits, persons suspected of being engaged in the forementioned operations in paragraph a) above, as well as of vehicles, vessels, aircraft and other means of transportation used or suspected of being used for said operations; and
- c) The new means or methods being used to commit customs violations concerning art objects, antiquities and any other cultural effects.

Assistance in surveillance upon request

4. On request of the customs administration of a Contracting Party, the customs administration of the other Contracting Party, to the extent of its competency and possibilities, will exercise special surveillance during a determined period:

- a) Regarding the movements, particularly on the entrance to and the exit from its territory, of those persons for which there may be reason to believe that they habitually engage in violating customs regulations concerning art objects and antiquities and other cultural effects in the territory of the Contracting Party making such requests;
- b) Regarding the movements of art objects and antiquities and other cultural effects, indicated by the customs administration of the Contracting Party making such request, whatever the subject, starting from the territory of this Contracting Party, of an important illegal traffic; and
- c) Regarding certain vehicles, vessels, aircraft and other means of transportation which there was reason to believe that they were being used for violation of customs regulations concerning art objects and antiquities and other cultural effects, starting from the territory of the Contracting Party making such request,

and will notify its results to the customs administration of the Contracting Party which requests it.

Investigations made, on request, by the other Contracting Party

5. On the request of the customs administration of a Contracting Party, the customs administration of the other Contracting Party, to the extent of its possibilities and acting within the framework of the laws and regulations in force in its territory, will proceed to carry out investigations aimed at obtaining proofs related to customs violations of works of art and antiquities and other cultural effects which were objects of investigation in the territory of the Contracting Party who requested it, will take the statements of the persons investigated in con-

nection with said infraction as well as those of the witnesses or experts, to communicate the results of the investigations, as well as the documents or other proof, to the customs administration of the Contracting Party requesting it.

*Intervention of customs officials of one Contracting Party
in the territory of the other Contracting Party*

6. When a simple, written declaration is not sufficient and the customs administration of one Contracting Party so requests, the customs administration of the other Contracting Party will authorize its officials, to the extent of its possibilities, to testify before the courts of the territory of the Contracting Party requesting it, as witnesses or experts in a matter concerning customs violations of art objects, antiquities and other cultural effects. The request to appear will determine what matter and in what character the official will testify. The customs administration of the Contracting Party that accepts the request will determine, if such were the case, in the authorization so issued, the limits within which its officials shall maintain their testimony.

7. On written request of the customs administration of a Contracting Party, when it is deemed appropriate and to the extent of its competency and possibilities, the customs administration of the other Contracting Party will permit the officials of the administration making the request to be present in the territory of the Contracting Party, required for purposes of such investigation or the verification of customs violation concerning art objects and antiquities and other cultural effects in which the Contracting Party making the request is concerned.

8. When the two Contracting Parties deem it appropriate and under the laws and regulations in force in their respective territories, the officials of the customs administration of one Contracting Party, at the request of the other Contracting Party, will take part in the investigations carried out or that will be carried out in the territory of the latter.

Centralization of information

9. The customs administrations of the Contracting Parties will communicate to the Secretariat the anticipated information contemplated in parts 1 and 2 of the present Annex, according to the interest the information may have on the international level.

10. The Secretariat will establish a central file whose information will be provided by the Contracting Parties and will use the information in this central file to draw up abstracts and investigations relative to the new trends or those already established, concerning customs violations regarding art objects and antiquities and other cultural effects. It will periodically make a classification to eliminate that data which, in its opinion, were useless or out of date.

11. The customs administrations of the Contracting Parties will give the Secretariat, on its request and under the reservation that the other conditions of the Agreement and those of the present Annex, [supplementary information] which may be necessary to prepare the aforementioned summaries and investigations of paragraph 10 hereof.

12. The Secretariat will communicate to the services or officials, designated by name by the customs administrations of the Contracting Parties, the special information appearing in the central file, according to the considered usefulness of said communication as well as the summaries and investigations mentioned in paragraph 10 hereof.

13. Unless otherwise indicated by the Contracting Party which communicates the information, the Secretariat will likewise notify UNESCO and the International Organization of Criminal Police (INTERPOL), the information relative to customs violations on art objects and antiquities and other cultural effects appearing in the central file to the extent in which there may have been an illegal transfer of property and that the communication may be considered useful as well as the summaries and investigations which may have been carried out in this regard in enforcing paragraph 10 hereof.

14. The Secretariat will, on request, communicate any other information at its disposal within the framework of the centralization anticipated hereof.

First part of the central file: people

15. The purpose of the notices served in agreement with this part of the central file will be to provide information relative to:

- a) Persons who have been definitively sentenced for customs violations regarding art objects, antiquities and other cultural effects; and
- b) Eventually, to the persons suspected or arrested in customs *flagrante delicto* violations in these crimes in the territory of the Contracting Party responsible for serving notice even if no judicial procedure shall have been carried out.

It is hereby understood that the Contracting Parties, who shall have abstained from giving the names and descriptions of the people in question because their own law prohibits it, will at all events forward a notice indicating the greatest possible information indicated in this part of the central file.

16. The information to be given is essentially the following:

- a) Surname;
- b) Forenames;
- c) Maiden name, if applicable;
- d) Alias or nickname;
- e) Occupation;
- f) Place of residence;
- g) Date and place of birth;
- h) Nationality;
- i) Country of residence and country in which the persons has resided during the last 12 months;
- j) Nature and number of identification papers including dates and country where issued;
- k) Personal traits:
 - 1. Sex;
 - 2. Height;
 - 3. Weight;
 - 4. Build;
 - 5. Hair;
 - 6. Eyes;
 - 7. Complexion;
 - 8. Special marks;
- l) Type of violation;
- m) Brief description of violation (indicating, amongst other information, the character, the quantity and origin of the merchandise, carrier and shipper) and under what circumstances it had been discovered;
- n) Character of the sentence handed down;
- o) Other observations including the languages spoken by the person in question, and prior sentences, if the administration should have knowledge of such;
- p) The Contracting Party that supplies the information (including reference number).

17. As a general rule, the Secretariat will furnish the information concerning the first part of the central file, at least to the country of the violator or suspect, to the country where he was domiciled and to the countries where he has resided within the last 12 months.

*Second part of the record file:
methods or systems used*

18. Notifications having been made in this part of the central file will be to furnish information related to art objects, antiquities and other cultural effects, including means of concealment, in all cases being of special interest on the international level. The Contracting Parties will indicate all known cases of use of each method or system of violation as well as the new or unusual methods so as to detect new trends in this field.

19. The information to be furnished essentially includes the following:

- a) Description of the methods or systems. If it were possible, to furnish a description of the means of transport used (make, model, registration if it is a land vehicle, type of vessel, etc.) When pertinent, furnish information found in the license or seal of approval of the containers or vehicles the technical conditions of which shall have been approved under the terms of an international agreement, as well as indications containing all the handling of seals, customhouse marks, bolts, bindings, the closing device mechanism or other parts of the container or vehicles;
- b) Eventually, description of the hiding place with photograph or sketch, if possible;
- c) Description of the merchandise in question;
- d) Other remarks: especially indicated will be the circumstances under which the crime was discovered; and
- e) Contracting Party who furnishes the information (including reference number).

ANNEX XIII

COOPERATION REGARDING MODERNIZATION OF NATIONAL CUSTOMS SERVICES AND TECHNICAL TRAINING OF THEIR PERSONNEL

1. Upon receiving the request of the customs administration of a Contracting Party, the customs administration of another Contracting Party will provide all the cooperation within its power in order to contribute to the modernization of its structure, organization and work methods, including the coordination of the functioning and/or use of customs chemical laboratories and other branches of the national administrations, as well as the best possible uses for those specialized officials considered as experts.

2. Upon receiving the request of the customs administration of a Contracting Party, the customs administration of another Contracting Party will provide all the cooperation within its power in order to establish and/or perfect the technical training systems for the personnel of the customs administration of the soliciting Contracting Party, including the training and interchange of professors, and providing scholarships and study grants.

3. The Secretariat will keep an updated registry of the information provided by the Contracting Parties to the present Annex, or of that information which it might collect, about the possibilities of providing or requiring, whatever the case may be, the cooperation referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Annex, and will adopt those measures which might pertain to the promotion of said cooperation.

ANNEX XIV

PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR THE ENTRY, EXIT AND PASSAGE
OF SAID SHIPMENTS, ON THE OCCASION OF CATASTROPHES

1. The customs administrations of the Contracting Parties will provide all possible facilities to accelerate the exit from their respective territories of all those shipments of aid materials or elements should catastrophes occur, which are destined to other Contracting Parties.

2. The customs administrations of the Contracting Parties will provide all possible facilities for the free passage or transit of those shipments containing aid materials or elements through their territories, which are destined to other Contracting Parties.

3. The customs administrations of the Contracting Parties will take all possible measures to facilitate the reception and the speedy distribution or processing of the materials and elements which they might receive as aid, destined to their respective territories.
