

mercial credits in connection with imports and exports are permitted, provided they do not exceed what is regarded as customary.

*Trade Agreements* — Sweden is a signatory to the GATT agreement and is a member of EFTA, the European Free Trade Association. The other member countries are Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Portugal and Switzerland. As a member of EFTA, Sweden abolished her import duties against the other EFTA countries in 1967.

In 1972, trade agreements were signed between Sweden and the European Economic Community (EEC) as well as the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). Both agreements came into effect in 1973. The essential feature of the agreements is that a free trade area is created for manufactured goods excluding agricultural products, while at the same time maintaining the abolition of tariffs already achieved with EFTA.

Sweden is a member of the United Nations (UN), and its subordinate agencies. These include, in addition to the GATT, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the United Nations' regional banks and the United Nations' Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Sweden takes part in the meetings of the Group of Ten and is also a member of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and its specialized agencies.

About 90 per cent of Sweden's imports from the developing countries and 99 per cent of the imports from the underdeveloped countries are free of duty.

Sweden's Official Development Aid (ODA) disbursements amount to 1 per cent of GNP.

Trade with Eastern Europe is regulated by long-term bilateral agreements.

*Import Licences* — All commodities, except certain foodstuffs, textiles and footwear, are free of import licensing requirements and control. In general, import licences when required are issued by the Swedish Board of Trade. Those for food and live animals are issued by the National Agricultural Marketing Board.