My dear Senator Lehman:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of 19 May 1950 regarding the listing of diamonds as one of the items to be considered for negotiations in the forthcoming trade agreement conference in London.

The public listing of an item is merely the notice that it is being considered for a reduction in duty. Public hearings are being held by the Committee for Reciprocity Information in Washington, D.C., during the period 24 May to 9 June 1950, inclusive, at which time all interested parties are given an opportunity to express their views on the items being considered. In addition, any interested person may file a brief, giving his views.

The public list of items to be considered for possible reductions in duties includes cut diamonds suitable for use in the manufacture of jewelry. The principal interest of the Department of Defense is in industrial diamonds, which are included in the materials for stockpiling. The Department, in this connection, would be interested in any information as to the relationship between the domestic gem diamond cutting industry and the industrial diamond problem.

It is noted in your letter that management and union representatives of the diamond industry intend to appear before the Committee for Reciprocity Information and to state their case. The views expressed by these persons, and the information supplied by them, will be seriously considered by the representatives of the Department of Defense on this Committee.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Honorable Herbert H. Lehman
United States Senate