TABLE 21.—*Increase in foreign gold and liquid dollar assets,*[1] *1949–60*

[In millions]

Year	Dollars	Gold	Net change, dollars and gold	Year	Dollars	Gold	Net change, dollars and gold
1949	+72	−164	−92	1955	+1,108	+41	+1,149
1950	+1,859	+1,743	+3,602	1956	+1,274	−306	+968
1951	+396	−53	+343	1957	+330	−798	−468
1952	+1,471	−379	+1,092	1958	+1,140	+2,275	+3,415
1953	+941	+1,161	+2,102	1959 [2]	+2,970	+732	+3,702
1954	+1,218	+298	+1,516	1960 [3]	+1,814	+1,700	+3,459

[1] Plus indicates increase in dollars held by foreigners or sale of U.S. gold to foreigners. Minus indicates decrease in dollars held by foreigners or purchase of gold from foreigners.
[2] Does not include U.S. contribution of $1.3 billion to the International Monetary Fund.
[3] Gold figure based on first 11 months as reported by the Federal Reserve Board. Dollar figure based on first 9 months as reported in the Survey of Current Business.

The largest recent sales of gold were in the second quarter of 1958 when over $1 billion was transferred to foreign account. In calendar 1958 foreign sales amounted to almost $2.3 billion. Although sales decreased to $732 million in 1959 (not including the $344 million transferred to the International Monetary Fund) they increased to $780 million during the first 9 months of 1960 (equivalent to an annual rate of $1.0 billion). It is estimated that sales in the fourth quarter will raise the figure for the year to $1.7 billion.

Nevertheless, it would be incorrect to characterize these gold shipments as a "run" on the dollar for there has been no evidence of any serious loss of confidence in the dollar as an international reserve currency. The dollar even withstood heavy speculation in the London gold market which caused the world price of gold to rise to over $41 per ounce in the autumn of 1960.

The largest sales of gold were in 1950, 1953, 1958, and 1960 (see table 22). The United Kingdom has been the largest purchaser. Next in importance have been Belgium, the Netherlands, France, and Italy. Since the close of World War II these countries have deemed their gold reserves to be inadequate. With improvement in their international economic position they hastened to convert part of their dollar balances into gold. Until recently the dollar balances were not large enough to permit them to do this because they were not able to generate a sufficiently large volume of merchandise exports.

TABLE 22.—*Sales of U.S. gold to foreigners, 1950, 1953, 1958, and 1959*

[In millions]

Sold to	1950	1953	1958	1959	Total
United Kingdom	$1,020	$480	$900	$35	$2,750
Italy			349		349
Latin America	172	132	69	31	404
Germany		130			130
Canada	100				100
France	85			266	351
Netherlands	80	65	261	30	436
Belgium	58	95	329	39	521
All others [1]	228	259	[2] 367	16	870
Total	1,743	1,161	2,275	732	5,911

[1] Including Bank for International Settlements.
[2] Switzerland $215 million.

Source: Federal Reserve Bulletin.