Changes in cost of living selected countries, 1953=100

	Germany	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom	France	Japan	United States
1953	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1954	100	103	104	102	100	106	100
1955	102	105	106	106	101	104	100
1956	104	109	108	112	103	105	102
1957	107	110	115	115	106	108	105
1958	109	113	117	119	121	109	108
1959	110	113	118	120	129	110	109
1960	111	115	121	121	134	115	111
1961:							
I	113	117	122	123	136	118	111
II	114	117	122	124	136	119	111
III	115	118	123	126	137	123	112
IV	115	119	124	127	140	125	112
1962:							
January	117	120	125	128	142	126	
February	117	121	125	128	142	126	112
March	118	122	126	129	142	127	113
April	119	122	127	130	143	128	113
May	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	130	-----------

Source: International Financial Statistics, July 1962.

Restrictions Upon International Capital Transfers in Selected Countries

Incoming and outgoing capital payments by residents and nonresidents are subject to a wide variety of controls, licensing, and restrictions in various countries. The following comment covers only selected European countries, Japan, the United States, and Canada. It is not necessarily representative of the range or complexity of such regulations.

In the case of the United States and Canada there are no restrictions (except the more or less academic one of the United States requiring licenses for transfers to or from the mainland of China and North Korea).

In Switzerland transfers of capital may be made freely except with respect to a "controlled area" involving Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, etc., in which case licenses are required. It is sometimes said, however, that, because of the type of banking system which prevails in Switzerland, "moral suasion" may on occasion be actively employed as an effective instrument of national policy.

In Germany there are virtually no restrictions except for the important one that nonresidents may not own domestic treasury bills without an individual license.

In general, the United Kingdom and Sweden require approval of transfers but such approval is normally granted subject to stated regulations.

The significant thing about countries which, unlike Canada and the United States, do have systems of controls is the more or less elaborate specifications which tend to make it difficult to tell without exhaustive analysis just how much the restrictions really restrict and how much of possible transfers fall into an exempt category. Illustrative of the complexity of controls which may or may not be restrictive but challenge analysis are the cases of France and Japan.

Descriptions given in the reports of the International Monetary Fund on the capital controls in this selected group of countries as of the end of the first quarter of 1962 follow.

France

Most outward transfers of capital by residents require approval. Transfers in respect of legacies, dowries, and, subject to certain time limitations, emigration of foreign nationals, are permitted freely without special authorization. Capital assets abroad belonging to or acquired by residents are not subject to repatriation or surrender. Residents of foreign nationality may dispose freely of their assets abroad. Residents of French nationality are permitted to reinvest such assets either in quoted securities in accordance with a general authorization or in other investments under individual license. Subscriptions to new issues may be made only by using the proceeds from sales of securities already owned by residents of French nationality. Exchange proceeds from sales of foreign securities expressed in foreign currencies and owned by resi-