NOTE ON THE MEETING HELD ON
17 APRIL 1989

Chairman: M. J.-F. Boittin (France)

1. The Committee met on 17 April 1989 to conduct a full consultation under Article XVIII:12(B) with Pakistan (BOP/R/181).

2. Under "Other Business", the representative of Egypt said that, following the request made by the Committee in its consultation of June 1988 for statistical information on the list of conditionally prohibited items in Egypt, such information had now been sent to the secretariat for circulation to the Committee.

3. Members thanked the Egyptian representative for his statement. One member called the Committee's attention to a notice published recently by the Central Bank of Egypt temporarily suspending the issuance of letters of credit on 65 commodities. This action had apparently been taken in addition to a permanent suspension of letters of credit under Decree 333 of August 1986. It appeared that the new suspension was an attempt to save foreign exchange and protect local industry. He asked the Egyptian delegation whether this measure would be notified under the balance-of-payments provisions of GATT or whether the measure was taken on any other basis, and sought a more formal discussion at a later stage.

4. The member from Egypt said that he was not in a position to give information at this stage, but that he would consult with his authorities regarding this question.

5. Concerning the issue of notification of trade measures taken for balance-of-payments purposes, one member said he wished to consider whether a special meeting of the Committee was necessary to discuss some of the difficulties which had arisen in some consultations.