Synopsis of Non-Tariff Measures for the Protection of Agriculture or in Support of Incomes of Agricultural Producers Furnished by the Government of Cambodia

I. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL POLICIES

A. General objectives

Cambodia is an essentially agricultural country. The main concern of the Royal Government is therefore to increase the income of those engaged in agriculture, who form 80 per cent of Cambodia's total population, and to raise their standard of living. To attain that goal, efforts have been made to increase agricultural production by improving crop yields and by orientating agriculture towards intensive development of the main crops: rice, maize, rubber, cotton, jute, etc.

The improvement of crop yields lies in the wide and general use of fertilizers, the distribution of selected seeds, and intensification of measures to combat the pests which attack crops. Parallel with these measures the Royal Government is putting into effect a very advanced water policy in order to render Cambodian agriculture immune from atmospheric hazards. This water policy, supported by the whole population, consists in the harnessing of water for agriculture and comprises the following undertakings:

(a) Irrigation projects: organization of an irrigation network, the building of dams and reservoirs, the digging of canals, the construction of various agricultural hydraulic works.

(b) Warping projects, consisting of piercing the banks of the Mekong River by digging canals which take the alluvial waters to the low-lying areas beyond the banks.
(c) **Defense works against brackish water.**

(d) **Defense works against flooding.** It has been possible by these means to reclaim thousands of hectares of land for cultivation.

B. **Special measures**

The special measures adopted by the Royal Government are aimed solely at encouraging production:

1. **Agricultural loans.** These loans are granted by the National equipment fund to landowners and agricultural concerns in order to enable them to farm on as sound an economic basis as possible through the use of suitable up-to-date means.

2. **Temporary exemption from land taxes.** Such exemption is granted in respect of lands on which the following crops are grown: cotton, coconuts, coffee, tea and hevea.

II. **SUBSIDIES**

The Royal Government does not grant any subsidy for the purpose of either financing the export of agricultural produce or protecting its price.

However, in order not to discourage agricultural producers, the Royal Government, in agreement with the Central Bank of Cambodia, fixes a fairly high "EFAC" (currency retention) percentage for exports of certain forms of agricultural produce (30 to 40 per cent).

III. **MIXING REGULATIONS**

There is no regulation relating to mixtures.

IV. **STATE-TRADING OPERATIONS**

There is no State trading in Cambodia.

V. **IMPORT RESTRICTIONS**

All imports are subject to licensing. Import licences are only issued in respect of products for the importation of which provision is made in the annual import and export plan.