By airgram GATT/AIR/1370 dated 12 May 1977, contracting parties were invited to notify not later than 30 September 1977 any changes which should be made to the information concerning import restrictions contained in:

(a) the annex to L/4455 and Corr.1-3; and

(b) the notes on individual import restrictions contained in COM.IND/W/67/Add.1 and Corr.1-5, and in MTN/3/E/DOC/7 and Add.1-10.

Comments received by the secretariat up to 30 November 1977 were circulated in document COM.IND/W/67/Add.1/Corr.6, dated 22 December 1977.

With reference to the above-mentioned airgram, the following communication dated 10 January 1978 has been received from the Permanent Delegation of Belgium on behalf of the Benelux Economic Union.

With reference to GATT/AIR/1370 concerning the subject of the above heading, the Benelux countries propose the following changes to document COM.IND/W/67/Add.1 and Corr.1-6.

It should be noted that these proposals concern solely industrial products and processed agricultural products. The only information examined has been that concerning the Benelux countries which is given in the "notes on individual import restrictions" forming part of the aforementioned document.
ex 31.02 - Fertilizers, nitrogenous ...
Replace the text under "(c) Comments by countries maintaining the measures" by the following:

1. For agriculture and horticulture, regular supply of nitrogenous fertilizers is more important than that of other chemical fertilizers because the consequences of adverse weather conditions can be remedied by the use of a nitrogenous supplement. On average, agriculture uses only two thirds of nitrogenous products for one third of other chemical fertilizers.

2. This product, which is manufactured throughout the year, is used seasonally.

Most chemical fertilizers, however, are hygroscopic and special attention must, therefore, be given to storage. For this reason the user does not generally hold stocks and the trade plays an important rôle in this field, all the more so because several million tons of the product are used over a short period. Transport of fertilizers by the industry - which moreover does not have adequate space for storage - to the user during the utilization period is practically impossible.

3. Because of very keen competition on this market, the profit margin in the chemical fertilizer trade is very low. Accordingly, the trade cannot build up stocks unless the inherent risks are limited to a minimum. A system of price scales is established to this end, in the sense that the industry raises the price of fertilizers during the year by including in it the grant for pre-financing and storage costs.

Page 109

ex 32.05 - Synthetic organic dyestuffs ...
Replace the first sentence under "(a) Description" by:

"Under the EEC autonomous import régime, for Benelux, certain products are under quota."
ex 32.05 - Synthetic organic dyestuffs ...  

Under "(c) Comments by country maintaining the measures", replace the text by: "in present circumstances, licences are granted by the Quota and Licensing Board (of the Ministry of Economic Affairs)".

Page 267

51.04 - Woven fabrics ...

Under "(a) Description", insert a comma after "fabrics", a full stop after "tyres" and replace BQ (JAP) by: XR (JAP) certain synthetic fabrics; Susp. (JAP) regenerated fabrics and certain synthetic fabrics.

In the ninth line of the paragraph commencing "Japan", replace the words "fourteen as of late 1969" by "seven in August 1977".

In the second line of the paragraph commencing "Poland", delete the word "bilaterally".

In the third and fourth lines of the footnote, delete the heading numbers: 56.05 to 62.05.

Page 343

ex 56.05 - Yarn of textile fibres ...

Under (a) replace BQ (JAP) by Susp. (JAP).

Page 353

56.07 - Woven fabrics of man-made fibres ...

Under (a) replace BQ (JAP) by: XR (JAP) woven fabrics of synthetic textile fibres; Susp. (JAP): woven fabrics of regenerated textile fibres.

Page 399

ex 58.05 - Narrow woven fabrics ...

Under (a) replace BQ (JAP) by: XR (JAP) of synthetic fibres; Susp. (JAP) of other materials.
ex 58.06 - Woven labels ...
   Under (a), replace BQ (JAP) by Susp. (JAP).

ex 58.07 - Chenille yarn etc.
   Under (a), replace BQ (JAP) by Susp. (JAP).

ex 58.09 - Tulle ...
   Under (a), replace BQ (JAP) by Susp. (JAP).

ex 59.13 - Replace BQ (JAP) by Susp. (JAP).

ex 60.04 - Undergarments ...
   Under (a), add after BQ (POL): of man-made textile fibres.

ex 60.05 - Outergarments ...
   Under (a), replace BQ (JAP) by Susp. (JAP).

ex 61.02 - Women's outergarments ...
   Under (a), replace BQ (JAP) by Susp. (JAP).

ex 61.03 - Men's and boys' undergarments ...
   Under (a), replace BQ (JAP) by Susp. (JAP) shirts and pyjamas.
Page 545
ex 61.05 - Handkerchiefs ...
   Under (a), replace BQ (JAP) by Susp. (JAP).

Page 551
ex 61.06 - Shawls ...
   Under (a), replace BQ (JAP) by Susp. (JAP).

Page 557 (b), (c)
ex 61.08 - Ties ...
   Under (a), delete XR.

Page 567
ex 62.02 - Bed linen ...
   Under (a), add after BQ (POL): of linen.

Page 578 (b)
ex 62.03 - Sacks and bags ...
   Under (a), delete XR.

Page 587
ex 62.05 - Braided laces ...
   Under (a), replace BQ (JAP) by Susp. (JAP).

Page 765 (a) - Under "Product (BTN)"
   Replace the text by: ex 73.32 - Bolts and nuts etc. not worked by lathe.

Page 775
ex 79.03 - Wrought plates ... of zinc
   Under (a), replace R (YUG) unwrought by RQ (YUG) of square or rectangular shape.