Pursuant to the revised procedures for review meetings circulated in the communication from the Chairman of the Council dated 30 April 1993 (L/7208), following are outlines of the main points to be raised by Mr. Armando F. Ortega (Mexico) and Ms. Anne Stoddart (United Kingdom) at the review of India to be held on 19-20 October 1993.

It is recalled that discussants act in their personal capacity.

(a) Mr. Armando F. Ortega

1. Despite very impressive features of the Indian economic reform programme, there are still formidable structural inefficiencies to be tackled: insufficient productive infrastructure; modest public investment, high rate of illiteracy; a low savings rate; small participation of the external sector in the economy, etc. How can India's growth be secured in such an environment?

2. Is it true that the country's economic programme has lost a certain momentum, inasmuch as the toughest politically-difficult decisions remain still to be made?

3. Can India elaborate about its privatization programme?

4. Does India foresee reforms of its labour laws as a means to improve economic efficiency? Can India comment on the so-called "jobs-for-life" labour laws?

5. Can India elaborate on its goal to put public enterprises on a commercial footing? Is there a programme to increase the scope of products covered? Can India comment about the deregulation scheme in this area?

(b) Ms. Anne Stoddart

6. The Eighth Five-Year Plan sees it as a key task to move towards greater openness and reap the full benefits of international trade. Does this policy apply to all sectors, including agriculture? How far does self-sufficiency remain a goal?
7. The import régime, even after the planned changes in the next few years, will still provide significant protection for the consumer goods industry in India as distinct from other sectors of industry, e.g. through tariff escalation. Is this consistent with the stated aim of the Indian authorities to encourage efficiency in the use of resources?

8. How far are import licences still granted only to actual users and what is the rationale for this policy?

9. Are there published criteria for licensing decisions in relation to consumer goods?

10. Are there any plans for simplifying the tariff e.g. by reducing the standard rate where exemptions or concessional rates are frequent?

11. What are the reasons for continuing "canalized" trade in certain areas?

12. Is it correct (p. 89 of C/RM/S/40) that the Government of India is looking for an increase in countertrade exports, including an obligation to offset major public sector contracts?

13. What plans are there to review the rather comprehensive system of export incentives, including dual pricing, some of which were originally intended to offset high import barriers?

14. Are there any time limits on attempts to revive "sick" industries? Are the problems in winding-up non-viable sick companies (p. 124 of C/RM/S/40) the result of delays in the High Court, adverse Court decisions or some other cause?