NOTIFICATION FROM SWITZERLAND

This communication from Switzerland is in response to airgram GATT/AIR/2181 requesting contracting parties to furnish information for the discussion of problems relevant to GATT in relation with exports of domestically prohibited goods.

Switzerland does not have any general inspection system for exports. Nevertheless, in various fora it participates in international efforts designed to secure greater transparency in international trade in dangerous products. Following the adoption of various international instruments—in particular the OECD recommendation, the UNEP provisional scheme and the FAO code of conduct—in November 1985—the Swiss authorities intend to implement them at national level under a coherent policy which they are currently engaged in defining. Moreover, a first information stage provided for in these instruments, current information on regulations, is already in operation under the procedure established by the GATT Code on Standards.

For the subsequent stages, it would be useful for the Swiss authorities to know the precise objectives of the work suggested in GATT (e.g. protection of public health?) so that, if appropriate, they could compile additional information in the light of the specific intentions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES.

1. Recommendation regarding exchange of information on the export of banned or severely restricted chemical substances
2. Provisional notification scheme for banned or severely restricted chemicals
3. International code of conduct on the distribution and the use of pesticides
4. See GATT notification TBT/Notif.84.182 (Federal Ordinance on substances dangerous for the environment).