COMMITTEE ON IMPORT LICENSING

Meeting of 29 April 1980

Note from the Chairman

1. The Committee met on 29 April 1980 under the Chairmanship of Mr. T. Kawamura (Japan).

2. The Committee adopted procedures for the participation of observers (see Annex) and considered a number of specific points arising from these procedures.

3. The Committee heard general policy statements from a number of delegations.

4. The Committee discussed procedures for the supply of information and notification under the relevant articles of the Agreement on the basis of the secretariat proposal and agreed to adopt these procedures subject to the points raised in the discussion and on the understanding that they would be reviewed again at a later stage in the light of experience.

5. The Committee examined procedures for accession of non-contracting parties on the basis of papers circulated by the secretariat, and decided that further consultations should be held and that the Committee would revert to the matter at its next meeting.

6. The Committee accepted proposals from the Chairman regarding procedures for the circulation and derestricion of documents. It also decided to hold one meeting before the summer recess and another one in the autumn in order to deal with outstanding procedural matters and a number of more substantive issues related to notifications and the reviews of the operation of the Agreement foreseen in Article 5.5.

7. The next meeting of the Committee will take place on a date to be fixed by the Chairman in consultation with delegations. The Committee requested the Chairman to draw up an agenda for this meeting and to circulate it as soon as possible in advance of the meeting.
ANNEX

Participation of Observers

Taking into account the decision arrived at by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their thirty-fifth session on 28 November 1979, (document L/4905) the Committee agreed on the following procedures for the participation of observers:

1. Representatives of contracting parties which are not signatories may follow the proceedings of the Committee in an observer capacity.

2. Representatives of non-signatory countries not contracting parties, which participated in the multilateral trade negotiations and which are interested in following the proceedings of the Committee in an observer capacity, should communicate a request to the Director-General of the GATT indicating their desire to do so. The Committee shall decide on each request.

3. Observers may participate in the discussions but decisions shall be taken only by Signatories.

4. The Committee may deliberate on confidential matters in special restricted sessions.

5. The Committee may invite, as appropriate, international organizations to follow particular issues of the Committee in an observer capacity. In addition, requests from international organizations to follow particular issues within the Committee in an observer capacity shall be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Committee.