Note from the Chairman

1. The Committee held its seventh meeting on 12 June 1981, under the Chairmanship of Mr. S. Tamura (Japan).

2. The Committee heard a second progress report from the Chairman of the Working Party on the Accession of Bulgaria to the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade. It agreed to adjourn consideration of Bulgaria's request for accession until the Working Party has completed its work and to hold a special meeting, expected to take place in about one month's time, to examine the Working Party's report.

3. A number of delegations gave additional information concerning implementation and administration of the Agreement. The Committee noted that at its next regular meeting this item would be considered in the context of the second annual review of the operation of the Agreement.

4. The Committee dealt with several matters related to the operation of the Agreement, namely notification, technical assistance to developing countries, regional standards-related activities and the operation of national enquiry points. It agreed to devote special attention to enquiry points, with the participation of experts, at its next regular meeting. It also instructed the secretariat to examine the feasibility of preparing a study on private standardizing bodies.

5. The Committee discussed the applicability of the Agreement to processes and production methods on the basis of proposals submitted by one delegation, and agreed that interested delegations could draw other Parties' attention to relevant developments in this area.

6. The next regular meeting of the Committee will be held on 20-23 October 1981.