ARTICLE XIX - ACTION BY HUNGARY

Imports of Cement, Imports of Intraocular Lenses

Emergency Actions

The following communication, dated 8 April 1992, has been received from the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Hungary.

The Hungarian authorities have decided to take emergency actions under Article XIX of the General Agreement in respect of the products specified below.

Cement (Items No. 2523.21; 2523.29; 2523.30; 2523.90 of the Hungarian customs tariff)

A surcharge of 9 per cent is levied on imported cement, applicable for the calendar year of 1992.

The measure has been prompted by the increase of imports at abnormally low prices together with indications of further substantial shipments with similar conditions. The practice has been found as causing serious injury to the domestic cement industry by reducing capacity utilization and aggravating employment problems thus hindering restructuring.

The temporary surcharge intends to offset the harmful effects of imports with market disruptive prices, due mainly to artificially low energy prices in a number of supplying countries and to barter deals.

Intraocular lenses (Item No. ex 9021.30 of the Hungarian customs tariff)

An import quota of 2,400 pieces has been introduced for the calendar year of 1992.
It was established that emergency measures were necessary to prevent excessive low priced imports of intraocular lenses threatening the infant local industry with serious injury. In view of the special characteristics and use of the product in question the quota has been set at a level which provides for maintaining competition on the domestic market.

Hungary is ready to enter into prompt consultations with any contracting parties having substantial interest in exporting to Hungary the products referred to in this submission.