The Belgian Delegation has the honour to communicate that in conformity with the wish expressed last year by the CONTRACTING PARTIES, the Belgian Government has undertaken a review of its legislation concerning family allowances having regard to the provisions of the General Agreement.

This examination has led the Belgian Government to the conclusion that the provisions of Article 130 of the Law and Royal Orders relating to family allowances which have been consolidated under the Order-Law of 19 December 1939 are of a mandatory nature and that the problem which confronts them can be solved by the Legislative Power alone.

The Belgian Government therefore has decided, in a spirit of international co-operation, to propose to the Legislative Chambers that they should adopt the relevant legislation. To that end, the various bodies concerned, in particular the Interdepartmental Committee on Family Questions shall be consulted, and a Bill shall be submitted to the Belgian Parliament at the earliest possible date.

The Government cannot prejudge the decision of the Chambers nor bind them in anticipation. However, pending the decision to be reached by the Chambers, the Belgian Government is prepared to initiate talks with those governments which hold the view that the application of the Law involves some degree of discrimination against them, for the purpose of examining with them whether any provisional remedy to the existing situation could be found.