I have the honour to inform you that on 23 September 1981 the Government of Australia accepted the above-mentioned Agreement. The acceptance was accompanied by the following statement:

"It is a matter of regret to the Government of Australia that participants in the MTN were unable to develop more effective disciplines on the use of agricultural export subsidies. The Agreement on the Interpretation and Application of Articles VI, XVI and XXIII of the GATT is heavily imbalanced as between its provisions relating to agricultural and to industrial products.

"Notwithstanding the disappointing result, the Government of Australia has decided to accept the Agreement on the expectation that within a reasonable time GATT Contracting Parties will develop disciplines relating to agricultural export subsidies which are substantially equivalent to those adopted in respect of export subsidies on products other than certain primary products (as defined in the Agreement).

"In respect of Australian measures which may exist within the purview of the illustrative list at the time of acceptance by the Government of Australia of the Agreement, and where major practical difficulties stand in the way of the Government of Australia bringing such measures promptly into conformity with the Agreement, the Government of Australia will, without prejudice to the rights of other signatories under the General Agreement or this Agreement, examine methods of bringing these measures into conformity within a reasonable time."
"In any event the Government of Australia will be reviewing its position in relation to the Agreement in the light of experience."

In terms of paragraph 4 of its Article 19, the Agreement will enter into force for Australia on 28 October 1981.

I also have the honour to inform you that on the same day of 28 September 1981, I thereafter received the following communication from the Government of the United States:

"Until such time as the Government of the United States of America otherwise notifies the Director-General to the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the GATT, the United States will provisionally apply to Australia all rights and obligations of the Agreement on the Interpretation and Application of Articles VI, XVI, and XXIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade."

On the same day of 28 September 1981, I thereafter received the following communication from Australia:

"Until such time as the Government of Australia otherwise notifies the Director-General to the CONTRACTING PARTIES to the GATT, Australia will provisionally apply to the United States of America all rights and obligations of the Agreement on Interpretation and Application of Articles VI, XVI and XXIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade."

This notification is furnished in accordance with paragraph 12 of Article 19 of the Agreement.

Arthur Dunkel
Director-General