WORKING PARTY ON PARAGRAPH 4 OF SWISS ACCESSION PROTOCOL

The following communication dated 10 February 1982 has been received from Permanent Delegation of Chile.
QUESTIONS

1. In what way are the import restrictions applied and administered? It would be of particular interest to know the modalities and procedures through which the system of restrictions is implemented.

2. In the allocation of quotas, is any provision made for new and small suppliers of products under restriction?

3. What is the present situation and the scope of Switzerland's bilateral agreements with other countries? Have these agreements been revised in recent years? With which countries does Switzerland have bilateral agreements the provisions of which bear directly or indirectly on trade in products subject to restrictions?

4. Could the Swiss authorities furnish information on the value and volume of imports of all products under restriction, broken down by country of origin of the goods concerned?

5. In their annual reports, could the Swiss authorities furnish detailed information on each product subject to restrictions, covering inter alia the following elements: volume of each quota; way in which the quota is administered and applied; access possibilities for new and/or small exporters; trade actually carried out under the quota; existence of bilateral agreements affecting the application and/or administration of the quota; etc.?

6. What possibilities are there for converting existing restrictions into customs duties, so as to afford greater transparency and less discrimination?

7. Would the Swiss authorities be disposed to negotiate existing restrictions whether in the form of quotas or tariffs, with a view to liberalizing the market, and if so on what conditions?

8. Are there any procedures for periodically notifying to all countries the opening of quotas, their period of validity, provisions for new and/or small suppliers, amount of the quota, and other relevant information?

9. Is the three-phase system still applied for the import of fruit and vegetables? If so, what does the system consist of?