Statement made by the representative of Cuba regarding the nature of Sisal and Henequen.

Until very recently, "Sisal" was considered in Botany simply as a Henequen variety, Agave rigida Sisaliana variety. Today Henequen is "Agave Fourcroydes"; Sisal is "Agave Sisaliana". Hence the family and same genre.

Apart from the slight differences from a scientific point of view, in the hard fibre market Henequen is known as "Cuban Sisal", or "Mexican Sisal", according to its origin.

Another point is that in the hard fibre trade the name Sisal is applied to "Sisal" properly speaking, and to the Henequen fibres classified as first quality fibres, and Henequen to the second grade fibres.

In the recent survey called "World Fibre Survey" published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 1947 all the above statements are confirmed in the note at the bottom of page 139, as follows:

"These fibres are known in world trade under various names. Abaco, for example is commonly known as "Manila hemp", Henequen is frequently referred to as Mexican or Cuban sisal, depending on its source".

As you will appreciate it was necessary to mention both fibres in our Decree as they are referred to indistinctly as Henequen or Sisal.