Statement by the Cuban representative concerning the developmental nature etc. of the Notified Measure.

(1) Potential new Production:

Cuban producers of Henequen and Sisal manufactured in the five year period 1944-1948 an average of 31,100,000 pounds per year. However, taking into consideration improved market conditions and increased demand, their production will reach 40,000,000 pounds average production per annum. In order to attain this increase in production new plantations are being developed replacing those whose yield has decreased due to the length of time in which they have been in production. Also new plantations are being developed in the western end of the Island, Pinar del Rio province, where new plantations were started in the year 1939, and actually there are more than 2,000 hectares planted, and further plantings are being developed. Within the next five year period, we expect to have under production 20,000 hectares of land of both Henequen and Sisal.

(2) Plans to expand production and expanding processing industry to use increased output.

Actual possibilities of increasing our output of processed Sisal and Henequen, and at the same time of diversifying the use of the fibers for domestic consumption and export, are the basic factors of our agricultural and industrial development of Henequen and Sisal.

Cuban factories for the processing of these fibers are being adapted to increase their production and to manufacture new products, which have been developed very recently and which have found a ready market. Diversification for the use of our fibers had been contemplated before the last world war, but due to the abnormal conditions which prevailed in war years all these projects were abandoned in order to supply the products which were more essential to our allies under the circumstances.

It is also of interest to mention that research is being carried out to improve the condition of the processed fibre. Preliminary tests are very encouraging and it is hoped that final results will
afford us a wider use of the processed fibre due to an improvement in the tension and other characteristics of the Henequen and Sisal twine.

On the other hand, Cuba expects to increase substantially its Henequen and Sisal exports through tariff and commercial agreements for which negotiations are taking place at this present moment.

(3) Period for which protection is required

In order to offer sufficient incentive to the investment of capital necessary for any agricultural or industrial development, such as is being contemplated with our Henequen and Sisal production, the minimum period which is required for the maintenance of the measure is 10 years. We must call the attention of this Working Party to the fact that the reason for this requirement is that these plants require from 4 to 5 years to develop. A shorter length of time for the maintenance of the measure would immediately stop further investment and development of our Henequen and Sisal industry.