COMMUNICATION FROM THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The Chairman of the Committee on Government Procurement has received the following communication, dated 18 September 1991, from the delegation of the Republic of Korea.

The Korean government submitted its offer list to the GATT Committee on Government Procurement ("the Committee") to seek accession to the GATT Government Procurement Code ("the Code") on 25 June 1990. Since then it has held bilateral consultations with the Parties on its offer list.

During the bilateral consultations we have received requests from the several Parties to participate in the negotiation on broadening and improving the Code ("the negotiation") which has been in progress in the Committee. We also received some questionnaires and requests which are related to the issues being discussed in the negotiation.

Considering those responses of the Parties, our government has recently decided to participate in the negotiation in order to contribute to liberalisation of government procurement markets world-wide.

I hope this intention of the Korean Government can be accepted by the Parties through the appropriate procedure. Your help would be indispensable for this procedure in various ways such as notifying the Parties of our intention and providing us with information and documents related to the negotiation, including three option papers on new government procurement agreement. If our participation is permitted, it is our hope that our delegation can participate in the negotiation as soon as possible.

I understand that by participating in the negotiation we will have to fulfil the same requirements as the Parties in respect of the submission of information on entities and other aspects of the negotiations.
However, I hope the Parties can understand that our submission of the Request/Offer List to the Committee may be delayed due to the lack of information and time to discuss this issue among departments within the Korean Government and other related entities. However, it is our intention to submit the Request/Offer List as soon as possible after we participate in the negotiation.

I anticipate a successful and speedy conclusion of the negotiation.

This item will be brought up under "Other Business" during the meeting of the Committee on Government Procurement on 23 September 1991. Reference is made to document GPR/M/38, paragraphs 8 and 9 and GPR/M/39, paragraphs 5 through 11.