With reference to Article 5.4(b) of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures, I wish to inform the Committee on Import Licensing that changes have been made in the relevant Japanese law and regulations. While the amended version of the law and regulations concerned shall be notified to the Committee in pursuance of the provisions of the Agreement under reference in due course at the completion of an English translation of it, I hereby wish further to inform the Committee as follows in this connexion:

(1) As the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Control Law was revised with effect as from 1 December 1980, the Import Trade Control Order and the Import Trade Control Regulation, both of which come under the above-mentioned law and constitute in the main the import licensing procedures of Japan, were also revised with effect as from the same date.

(2) While the Japanese import licensing régime had all along been in conformity with the Agreement ever since the Agreement entered into force, these amendments thus effected have the effect of bringing the régime even more in line with the purport of the Agreement. Above all, the import declaration system, the only requirement in respect of imports remaining under the régime prior to the revision and under which a declaration of certain particulars about an import had to be made to a bank, has been abolished, with the result that imports are now capable of taking place without such a declaration being needed.