The following communication, dated 18 October 1976, has been received from the Permanent Mission of the Hungarian People's Republic.

The Permanent Mission of the Hungarian People's Republic, UNCTAD/GATT Section, has before it a notification from the Permanent Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities, with a view to consultations within the framework of Group "Agriculture" of the multilateral negotiations. By a letter dated 10 September, the Hungarian authorities gave their assent to such consultations, and clarified their position regarding certain elements of the consultation request made by the Communities. In view of the fact that this request by the Permanent Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities, addressed to Hungary, has been circulated in document MIN/AG/W/11/Add.5/Suppl.1, page 3, and in view of the fact furthermore that this request contains some important imprecisions, I would request you to circulate the following clarification:

The consultation request made by the Permanent Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities concerns "measures applied by the Hungarian People's Republic". It should be noted that the request itself does not mention any specific measure. Hungary is nevertheless ready to enter into reciprocal consultation on the problem of the responsibility incumbent on all countries, whether importers or exporters, in trade expansion and market equilibrium.

The consultation request states furthermore: "The Commission finds that imports of agricultural products into this country come up against the impossibility for exporters of obtaining adequate information on the decisions that determine imports. Uncertainties and difficulties in regard to trade result from this situation." Hungarian import undertakings have been in contact with Community exporters for several decades past. Over this time, the competent Hungarian authorities have not
been apprised of any case where adequate information had not been given on the decisions that determine imports, and consequently no case of uncertainty or difficulty has been reported by exporters. Hungary is nevertheless ready to examine any specific cases that are communicated to it during the consultation.

The notification contains assertions that call for serious examination on the part of the Commission. In particular, it states that in Hungary there is an inadequacy of information and detailed statistics concerning production and consumption. In this respect, the Hungarian delegation has forwarded to the Permanent Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities a detailed list of the official publications containing information, detailed statistics concerning production, consumption of the agricultural products referred to in the notification by the Commission.

In addition, it appears from this that the Hungarian Institute for Agricultural Economic Research exchanges documents and statistics on a regular basis with eighty-six agricultural research institutes in the countries of the Community and with the Commission of the European Communities itself.

The Hungarian delegation requests a verification of whether there is any error as to the addressee, and whether Hungary is really the subject of any finding regarding inadequacy of information and detailed statistics.

As regards information on certain agreements concluded by Hungary and bearing on international trade policy, Hungary is ready to furnish these texts under the provisions of Article X of the General Agreement. In addition, Hungary for its part is interested in obtaining information on trade under certain Community agreements in the same area.

Hungary wishes to participate in these consultations with a view to adequate forecasting concerning the participation of the European Economic Community in the world market, both as an importer and as an exporter.