The following communication has been received from the Government of Switzerland.

With reference to Article 19, paragraph 5(a) of the Agreement on Interpretation and Application of Articles VI, XVI and XXIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Switzerland communicates the following:

The two chambers of the Swiss Parliament adopted the Agreement on Interpretation and Application of Articles VI, XVI and XXIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade by Federal Order, at their sessions in December last year. Thus the Agreement now has the force of law in Switzerland. The text of the Agreement has been published in the Swiss Federal Gazette (FF 1979 III 260) and is included in the Recueil des lois fédérales (RO 1979 2316).

The authority responsible in the first instance for ensuring the application of this Agreement is the Federal Office of External Economic Affairs of the Federal Public Economy Department.

In the spirit of the new Agreement, the Federal Council has initiated procedure for amendment of the Federal Law of 26 September 1958 on Guarantee against Export Risks (RS 946.11). The object is to ensure the financial independence of the system. Parliamentary approval is expected during this year, so that it should be possible for the amended Law to enter into force on 1 January 1981.