At the Committee's informal meeting on 9 September 1981, the Acting Chairman reminded the delegations of signatory countries of the decisions previously taken by the Committee with regard to notifications concerning subsidies. A summary of his statement follows.

Many observers and authorities in the field of international trade are becoming increasingly concerned by the proliferation of various forms of governmental aid, and in particular subsidies, and by their effects on the free play of sound international competition. Under these circumstances, it would seem highly appropriate for specialized multilateral bodies, and particularly the Committee, to deal seriously with the question. In order to be able to do so, however, it is necessary to have as complete information as possible.

In this connexion, it will be recalled that in January 1981 the GATT secretariat requested the contracting parties to submit new full responses to the questionnaire on subsidies (L/5102). At its April meeting, moreover, the Committee agreed "that Signatories should submit their responses before its next meeting and that it would undertake an examination of the matter at that meeting" (SCM/M/6, para. 15).

However, in the course of preparations for the October meeting, serious gaps have been found to exist in the notifications in question. What is more, the few notifications so far submitted provide practically no details on the situation in the industrial sector, which they even fail to mention.

In view of the foregoing, I take the liberty, as Acting Chairman, to appeal to you urgently to make every effort to ensure that notifications as complete as possible should be submitted by all Signatories sufficiently in advance to make possible valid examination by the Committee at its next meeting.