The following communication has been received from the delegation of Japan.

In accordance with Article 15.7 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and with the notification procedures agreed in the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade, I have the pleasure of notifying you herewith of Japan's further improvements in standards and certification systems.

In view of the rôle Japan should play in the world economy, the Government of Japan considers it important to conduct even more vigorously such policy measures as market-opening and so forth. Thus, the Government of Japan decided on a set of measures regarding pending issues in Japan's external economic relations including standards and certification systems issues, on 27 April 1984.

Further improvement measures in standards and certification systems contained in this decision are enumerated in the Annex hereto.

This set of measures has been decided not only from the viewpoint of giving further substance to the comprehensive measures for the Improvement of Japan's Standards and Certification Systems on 26 March 1983 (see L/5472) but also to take further steps to make it easier for foreign firms to obtain Japan's certification, i.e. "positive utilization of foreign testing organizations".
ANNEX

Further Improvements in Standards and Certification Systems

1. Positive utilization of foreign testing organizations

In order to make it easier for foreign firms to obtain Japan's certification under the following laws, test data from foreign testing organizations which meet certain requirements, including testing ability, will be accepted. Clear guidelines setting forth these requirements including testing ability, the modality of accepting the data, etc. will be drawn up and published with respect to each certification system by the end of 1984.

(a) Consumer Product Safety Law

(b) Law Concerning the Securing of Safety and the Optimization of Transaction of Liquefied Petroleum Gas

(c) Measurement Law

(d) Electrical Appliance and Material Control Law

(e) Gas Utility Industry Law (Implementing manuals on utilization of test data from foreign testing organizations relating to (a) to (e) above have been published.)

(f) High Pressure Gas Control Law (Eligibility requirements have already been drawn up for foreign testing organizations whose data will be accepted on high-pressure gas containers.)

(g) Japan Industrial Standardization Law (Policy guidelines have already been drawn up for approving foreign testing organizations to do factory inspections following JIS-labelling approval.)

(h) Agricultural Mechanization Promotion Law (Policy guidelines have already been announced for accepting foreign test data conducted by testing organizations designated by foreign governments in accordance with the OECD Test Code and accepted by the OECD.)

(i) Law for Improvement and Increased Production of Livestock (Eligibility requirements have already been announced for those testing organizations which are deemed to be of the same standing as foreign government agencies in terms of the issuance of the necessary certificate accompanying livestock semen for artificial insemination or livestock embryos.)

(j) Law Concerning Safety Assurance and Quality Improvement of Feed

(k) Law Concerning Standardization and Proper Labelling of Agricultural and Forestry Products
(L) Ship Safety Law

(m) Road Vehicles Act

(n) Public Telecommunications Law (and likewise with respect to the Telecommunications Business Bill in the event it is enacted and put into force)

(o) Radio Law

(p) Food Sanitation Law (The eligibility requirements have already been announced for foreign official testing organizations whose test data can be accepted, when importing foodstuffs, etc.)

(q) Industrial Safety and Health Law

(r) Fire Service Law

2. Acceptance of foreign test data and internationalization of Japanese standards

(a) It has been decided to introduce Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) for the testing for new chemical substances for which examination is sought under the Law Concerning the Examination and Regulation of Manufacture, etc. of Chemical Substances, and an English-language publication explaining this is to be drawn up and published soon.

GLP for toxicity tests on agrochemicals will be adopted by the end of fiscal 1984, under the Agricultural Chemicals Regulation Law.

(b) On the acceptance of foreign clinical test data for pharmaceuticals and medical devices seeking examination under the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law, further study is to be given to this, including technical consultations with foreign countries on such questions as ethnic-based physiological differences and other differences, and an interim report is to be issued by the end of fiscal 1984.

(c) On the testing for type-authorization under the Electrical Appliance and Material-Control Law, Japan has become a participant in the mutual recognition of foreign testing data system (CB system) of the International Commission on Rules for Approval of Electrical Equipment (CEE).

Japan is also promoting harmonization with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standards for those items for which the European Electrotechnical Standardization Committee (CENELEC) is promoting harmonization with IEC standards.
For the technical standards for which harmonization with the IEC standards has been achieved, an English-language publication is to be drawn up and published soon explaining the deviation from the IEC standards arising out of the differences in voltages used and other factors.

3. **Simplification and speeding-up of certification procedures**

(a) The upper limit for eligibility for the handling procedure for small-quantity motor vehicles is to be raised from 300 vehicles per year per type at present to 500 vehicles per year per type.

(b) For approval for new pharmaceuticals under the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law, it will soon be made possible to start examination even when the long-term stability tests are not completed provided that the accelerated stability test data are appended to the mid-term report on the long-term testing and that long-term stability test data are submitted for the already-begun examination process once they are available.