With reference to document TBT/W/1 of 20 February 1980, concerning information on implementation and administration of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, I wish to inform you of the following.


2. In order to ensure the proper implementation of the Agreement the following actions have been undertaken in Sweden:

   (a) An amendment to the ordinance regarding the obligation of authorities to inform the Board of Commerce of certain regulations etc. (SFS 1973:233, amendment SFS 1979:1209) has been issued. The amended ordinance states that an authority intending to issue regulations or guidelines regarding the technical construction, quality, marking, testing or approval of goods subject to international trade, should inform the Board of Commerce about the matter well in advance before the authority concerned makes a decision on the matter. In urgent cases the information may be given at the latest when the authority has decided on the matter. If it can be expected that such regulations or guidelines are of considerable importance for the trade between Sweden and other countries, the authority concerned should consult with the board of commerce before making any decision, unless there are particular reasons not to apply such a procedure.

   (b) The Board of Commerce has been instructed to, after consultations with the authority concerned, publish a notice in a publication, notify other Parties of the Agreement through the GATT secretariat and fulfil the obligations as enquiry point (SFS 1973:610, amendment SFS 1980:56).
3. Notices concerning proposed technical regulations or standards which may have a significant effect on trade and proposals to introduce certification systems will be published in the periodical "Standard", issued by the Swedish Standards Institution.

4. Adopted technical regulations and certification systems are published in the code of regulations issued by the relevant body. Standards are published by the Swedish Standards Institution or associated bodies.

5. No specific length of time for presentation of comments in writing on technical regulations etc. has been established.

6. The Board of Commerce (Kommerskollegium), Box 1209, S-111 82 STOCKHOLM, will carry out the task as enquiry point with regard to Article 10.1 of the Agreement. In co-operation with the Board, the Swedish Standards Institution (Standardiseringskommissionen i Sverige), Box 3295, S-103 66 STOCKHOLM, will carry out the task as enquiry point with regard to Article 10.2 of the Agreement. Both enquiry points are in full operation.

7. Requests for consultations should be addressed to the Ministries for Foreign Affairs and Commerce (Utrikes och Handelsdepartementen), S-103 33 STOCKHOLM, preferably through the Swedish Permanent Delegation in Geneva.