The Delegation of the United States suggests the following texts for paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of Article XXIII of the General Agreement (Joint Action by the Contracting Parties):

"4. Each contracting party shall have one vote in the Committee.

"5. Except as otherwise provided in this agreement decisions of the Committee shall be taken by a majority of the contracting parties present and voting.

"6. In exceptional circumstances not elsewhere provided for in this agreement, the Committee may waive an obligation imposed upon a contracting party by this agreement; Provided that any such decision shall be approved by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast and that such majority shall comprise more than half of the contracting parties. The Committee may also by such a vote

(a) define certain categories of exceptional circumstances to which other voting requirements shall apply for the waiver of obligations, and

(b) prescribe such criteria as may be necessary for the application of this paragraph."

It is questioned whether the provisions shown in brackets, which have been drawn from the Charter, need be included in the General Agreement.