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apan Report On Medical Equipment And Pharmaceuticals Market-Oriented, Sector-Selective (MOSS) Discussions (1986)

REPORT ON Medical Equipment and Pharmaceuticals

Market-Oriented, Sector-Selective (MOSS) Discussions

by the U. S. and apan MOSS Negotiating Teams

anuary 9, 1986

[Letter to]

Minister for Foreign Affairs Shintaro Abe

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Tokyo

[and]

Secretary of State George P. Shultz

Department of State

Washington, D.C.

We are pleased to forward to you the attached official copy of the report by our negotiating teams on the market-oriented, sector-selective (MOSS) talks on medical equipment and pharmaceuticals. We believe that this report is responsive to the mandate entrusted to us. [letter signed by US and apanese Chairs]

Respectfully

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Vice Minister

Ministry of Health and Welfare

Tokyo

David C. Mulford

Assistant Secretary for International Affairs

Department of the Treasury

Washington, D.C.

[delegation lists]

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MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND PHARMACEUTICALS MARKET-ORIENTED,

SECTOR-SELECTIVE (MOSS) DISCUSSIONS J

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INTRODUCTION

A. OVERVIEW OF THE DISCUSSIONS

On Januar 2, 1985, Pr sid nt R agan and Prime nist r Nakas n met in L s Ang l s t dis uss, among th r issu s, bilat ral n mi issu s. Th S talks r sult d fr m that me ting.

On Januar 28 and 29, 1985, high-l v l ffi als fr m Ja an and th Unit d Stat s met in T k t laun h th r ss agr d t b th Pr sid nt and th Prime nist r. Th Unit d Stat s r s nt d an a r a h that was mark t- ri nt d and s t r-s l tiv , with th a r n m S. Th mark t- ri nt d as t f this aM r a h meant f using n r moving barri rs that limit mark t a ss. Th s t r-s l tiv as t meant und rtaking this barri r-r moval within s ffi industrial s t rs -- t l omuni ati ns, medi al qui ment and harma uti als, l tr ni s, and fr st r du ts -dis uss d b th Pr sid nt and th Prime nist r. Th Ja an s sid indi at d that it was willing t f ll w this S a r a h.

Th S dis ussi ns in th medi al qui ment and harma uti als s t i r b twen th g v rnments f th Unit d Stat s and Ja an n ntat d n furth r ning th Ja an s h alth ar mark t b addr ssing h trad off ts f Ja an's r gulat r s st m f r r t ting ubli h alth and saf t and its insuran s st m f r r imbursing h alth ar x ns s. Th S dis ussi ns v r d th full s trum f r du t mark ting, in luding manufa turing r imp rt a r vals (sh nin), li nsing f r manufa tur r imp rt (k ka), and ri ing.

Th U.S. sid rais d th mark t- ning issu s fr m th vi wp int f r moving barri rs t trad and/ r t th ndu t f busin ss in Ja an b f r ign firms. Th U.S. sid n t d that in man as s th issu s r fl t d in ffi i n i s and infl xibilit s in th r gulat r s st m whi h had th ff t f imp ding th ntran int th mark t f n w r du rs and n w r du ts, and f influ n ing busin ss d isi ns v n wh n h alth and saf t qu sti ns w r n t at stak . At th same time, th U.S. sid did n t qu sti n th basi mandat f th nistr f H lth and Welfar () und r th Pharma uti al Affairs Law (PAL) t r gulat in fav r f th h alth and saf t f th Ja an s l and th v rall bj tiv f t r du Ja an s h alth ar x ns s.

Th Ja an s sid r s nd d that th Ja an's r gulat r s st m n ith r v rtl n r v rtl dis rminat d against f r ign firms in fav r f d mesti n s, r viding b th with qual rtuniti s t nt r th h alth ar mark t. It r gniz d, h wv r, th imp rtan f simplif ing administrativ r dur s, liminating administrativ d la s, and in r asing trans ar n , f r furth r fa ilitating M ss t Ja an's mark t and str ngth ning th fr trad s st m. Th Ja an s sid agr d t dis uss and s k s luti ns t th issu s as r s nt d in this wa .

Th int rag n d l gati ns f b th sid s met six times in 1985 t dis uss and d v l mark t- ning measur s, and work d int nsiv l t r aliz th int nt f th S initiativ . As a r sult, imp rtant r gr ss has b n mad thr ugh th s dis ussi ns and impr v ments in a ss t Ja an's mark t hav b n and will b r aliz d.

This r rt d s rib M th r bl ms addr ss d in th talks and th arti ular issu s f mark t a ss whi h th inv lv d. It x lains th s luti ns t th issu s t whi h b th sid s agr d. It s ffi s futur work lans f b th sid s in this s t r. M

The measures are taken by the United States and Japan should eliminate the adverse effects of the exchange system while continuing to ensure safe and healthy Japanese people. Therefore, these objectives, both of which have already been included in the basic review implementation plan for the exchange system, should have any implications that may arise.

The U.S. side was led by Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs, Mr. C. Mulford. The Japanese side was led by Vice Minister of MHW, Mr. Shiro Yashima.

B. SUMMARY OF THE AGREED SOLUTIONS

II. Issues Resolved

Chapter II of this report provides a brief description of the issues and the agreements that have been reached. This section is a summary, describing in detail the relevant provisions of the Japanese health care exchange system, of the specific measures committed to be taken by the MOSS negotiators.

1. Main Features of the Japanese Health Care Exchange System

The elements of the exchange system most relevant to the discussions are those in which the negotiators concerned are involved: the processes of obtaining relevant approvals and licenses and the listing of eimbu semen prices under the comprehensive Japanese medical insurance system. To begin a process of making the initial steps for the establishment of a medical practice, a physician must obtain a license from the pharmaceutical regulatory agency, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Labour (MHW). Such approvals are called shinin, and a physician must open a business independently or join an existing one, including the establishment of a clinic, which can satisfy MHW's health and efficacy requirements. In this decision-making process, MHW consults with an advisory body, the Central Pharmaceutical Affairs Council (CPAC), which invests a substantial scientific perspective in the view of the health of the population and the approval of new pharmaceutical medical devices.

To produce medical devices, a license manufacturer, called a kyka, must also be obtained on the basis of a business plan which demonstrates (1) the production of medical devices and (2) the ability of the manufacturer to produce a legally acceptable volume of capacity.

The shinin is an effective process (jurisdictional process) in the manufacturing industry. The kyka is an effective process for each manufacturer's business office.

With shinin and kyka in hand, a firm is technically qualified to begin a production process. Nevertheless, sales of the product, in general, open heavily up the eimbu semen under the National Health Insurance scheme, because it covers practically 100 percent of the Japanese population. Therefore, the manufacturer must seek an approval price listing under the system. The insurance price listing process is separate from the approval processes which are shinin and kyka. Prices are set by MHW based on general rules formulated by the Social Insurance Medical Affairs Council (Chuiky), which is the administrative body for the health insurance system and payees of insurance eimbu semen.

2. The Issues and Their Resolutions

The specific issues discussed by the negotiators can be grouped under the following headings, each of which concerns an aspect of the approval and eimbu semen price-setting processes: (a) establishment of a; (b) approval and licensing processes themselves; (c) links between the approval and pricing mechanisms; (d) the National Health Insurance eimbu semen system; and (e) transparency. Generally, the negotiators should have resolved issues which would prevent the implementation of MHW's mandate under the PAL to protect the health and safety of the Japanese people; eliminate delays in making new products; eliminate unnecessary hindrances to the business in Japan; and improve the commercial business decision-making environment in Japan.

a. Transition to a

Regulatory authorities in both Japan and the United States equate firms submitting applications for pre-clinical and clinical evaluation studies in support of approval applications. Although the negotiators, the U.S. delegation

pointed out that the presence of a clinic in the United States is a requirement in effect for the solution of problems for foreign firms in terms of cost of doing business. The U.S. side noted that MHW required the clinic to be done in person on resident presence in the United States. This required costly duplication of testing performed elsewhere in the world, even when differences among the subjects may not be demonstrated by being on the relevant site. It introduced the possibility of preventing the product from entering the presence of the market quickly. Domestic firms did not believe the duplicative testing cost. Problems of duplicative testing requirements raised by the U.S. side extended to pharmaceutical, medical device, and in-vitro diagnostic.

The presence side noted that it was aware of problems in the testing field. Prior to the MOSS talks, it had established a group of scientific experts to study the issue of acceptance of foreign clinic tests. The negotiator also noted certain other testing issues concerning presence in the presence of requirements for blood and other biological, fertility and sterility testing and so on.

The negotiator requested the following agreement on the testing and test issues:

(1) Acceptance of Foreign Clinic Tests

-- With regard to pharmaceutical, foreign clinic tests will not be accepted for examination and testing requirements except for the following items where there are immunologic and genetic differences between presence and foreigner:

o Compartmental clinical trials;

o Do the finding test; and

o Absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion test.

-- For in-vitro diagnostic reagent, foreign clinic tests will not be accepted except for those test parameters (i.e., those which measure entirely new substances or diagnostic indicators), and those in immunologic reaction problems could occur to the material to be tested.

-- Foreign clinic tests will not be accepted for medical device, except implantable and those affecting organ development.

(2) Other Testing Issues

-- In the series of expert meetings, both sides agreed on significant improvement in presence testing requirements for fertility and sterility test and for blood and other biological product.

b. Approval and Licensing Process

The MOSS talks explored numerous business issues raised by the U.S. side affecting foreign firms in marketing their products of obtaining approval and marketing the documents business requirements and relationship concerned.

-- MHW did not intend to proceed with the approval. This often caused costly uncertainty and delay and it may have created perception in the eyes of foreign firms of arbitrariness in the system.

-- No distinctive system existed for pre-market review of in-vitro diagnostic reagent. As a result, firms encountered costly delay in bringing product to market, and innovative product could not reach the market quickly.

-- The regulatory system did not provide for "transfer" of approval from one business entity to another. This difficult issue dealt with the core principle of the regulatory system which the presence side believed could not and should not be changed, but at the same time, the U.S. delegation noted, it inhibited the full exercise of proprietary rights to product.

The system could not deal simply or easily with the combination of drug and device (e.g., the combination into single package of drug and delivery system). Such package increasingly existed in world market. They were technologically advanced, medically superior, and able to offer greater cost saving in medical care. w

Costly do tatio r q ir ts a d r g latory i^{mp} di ts wæ pla d o for ig fir^{ms} wishi g to ha g
th o try of^{ma} fa t r of alr ady approv d prod ts;

o Mak^{mi} or^{mo} difi atio s a d i^{mp}rov ts to alr ady approv d prod ts; or

o Cha g th addr ss s of i^{mp}ort rs i Japa witho t discr pti g b si ss op ratio

I^{mp}ort rs of dr gs a d d vi s o t r d ad^{mi} istrativ d lays i i^{mp}ort pro d r s b a s C sto^{ms} a d
MHW i ort l ara op ratio s wæ ot i t grat d This probl^m i r as d i^{mp}ort rs' osts a d i^{mp} d d
ffi i t trad

Th gotiators r a h d t ally a ptabl sol tio s to a h of th s approval pro ss iss s, as follows:

Sta dard pro ssi g p riods hav b adopt d a d p blish d for approvals for phar^{ma} ti als, diag osti s,
a d d vi s If MHW a ot pro ss a appli atio withi th r l va t sta dard pro ssi g p riod, th appli a t
will ow hav th right to b so i for d a d giv a xpla atio of th r aso s th r for

I -vitro diag osti r ag ts ow hav th irown disti tiv , xp ditio s approval r vi w pro ss S h r ag ts
ar xa^{mi} d s parat ly fro^m oth r phar^{ma} ti als o th basis of si^{mp}lifi d appli atio do ts

For tra sf rs of approvals: wh a o^{mp}a y wish s to ha g o r ial arra g ts (for xa^{mp}l , fro
i orti g to li si g, fro o li s to a oth r, or fro^{mi} li si g to^{ma} fa t ri g), a d th o a y's
for r b si ss part r agr s to tra sf r^{ma} fa t ri g or i^{mp}orti g op ratio s a d all ssary data a d
i for^{ma} tio to th w part r or tity, th sho i will b tra sf rr d by otifi atio a o^{mp}a i d by th
vid of th ir agr t Kyoka will b iss d a d xisti g pri s will b list d withi ths aft r th
d of appli atio (prior appli atio for kyoka will b possibl) Wh th r is o s h agr t b t we
tra sf ror a d tra sf r , MHW will iss sho i a d kyoka withi th^{mo} ths of appli atio d r si^{mp}lifi d
pro d r s, if th appli a t s b ts data a d i for^{mi} tio si^{mi}lar to that for agr d tra sf rs, a d wh th
for r b si ss part r as s to^{ma} fa t r or i^{mp}ort th prod t Th r i^{mb} rs t pri o will b s t at th
sa l v l as for th pr vio sly approv d

prod t withi th^{mo} ths aft r th w sho i is iss d Th U S a d Japa hav agr d to o sid r
r sol tio of all typ s of tra sf r sit atio s o a as -by- as basis as th y aris withi th fra work of th
follow- p pro ss d s rib d i Chapt r IV of th r port Both sid s ar o tt d to fi di g pra ti al sol tio s to
l giti^{ma} t b si ss probl^{ms} that aris i this ar a

-- MHW has d vis d ad q at approval a d pri i g pro d r s for "kits" whi h o i dr gs a d th ir d liv ry
syst^{ms} S h kits a ow b bro ght to th Japa s^{ma}rk t a d pri d appropriat ly d r th i s ra
r i b rs t syst

-- Fir^{ms} xporti g approv d dr gs or di al d vi s to Japa that wish to ha g th ir o try of^{ma} fa t r
d o ly otify MHW; approval difi atio s ar o lo g r r q ir d

-- MHW has larifi d by offi ial oti th s op a d typ s of^{mi} or prod t^{mo} difi atio s whi h do ot r q ir
approvals

-- I ort rs wishi g to ha g lo atio s of fa iliti s or pla s of b si ss^{ma} y ow^{ma} k adva appli atio for
kyoka, bas d o wly si^{mp}lifi d do tatio , so that b si ss op ratio s ar ot discr pt d

-- Th sto^{ms} l ara pro ss for i^{mp}ort d prod ts has b str a i d to provid for "o stop" s rvi If .
i ort rs hav MHW approvals a d li s s d r th PAL, th ir goods a b l ar d by C sto offi ials d r
or^p al sto pro d r s

Li kag s B t we Approval a d Pri i g Me ha is^{ms}

p a s th r g latory^{ma} hi ry gov r i g approvals was s parat d fro^m th pri i g^{ma} hi sy of th Natio al
Hæth I s æ syst^m, a k y iss for th gotiators was th li^{mi} atio of d lays b t we th gra ti g of
sho i a d th s tti g of r i^{mb} rs t pri s S h d lays add d to th osts a d r tai ti s fa d by fir^{ms}
doi g b si ss i Japa .

The negot to g ee on gnfc nt nc e e n the frequency of p cng ec on fo ug n me c l ev ce (ee cu on on tming of embu ement p ce , below). The ech nge will e ve to l nk pp ov l ec on much mo e clo ely with p cng ec on , thu gnfc ntly e ucng the el y n unce t nte th t to the co t of f ms.

. The N t on l He lth n u nce Re mbu ement Sy tem

Seve l majo ue e olve by the negot to ppl e to the embu ement p cng y tem t elf. n the cu on the U.S. e not que t on the ove ll object ve of MHW to e uce J p ne e he lth c e co t . t eek, howeve , p cng y tem whch woul ope te mo e egul ly n pee ly, un e cle ly ef ne c te .

-- At the out et of the negot t on , the U.S. e e te th t the l tng of embu ement te wa too egul n gene lly nf equent. Th tu t on po uce fo f ms not only unce t nty but co tly el y n ma ket ent y even fte the hu le of obt nng hon n n kyok h been u mounte .

-- The U.S. te m lo ob e ve th t c te et by the Chu kyo n t el be ton n u e by MHW n ec ng how to et embu ement p ce well wh t p ce to et we e uncle . Th hn ee the b lty of f ms to commun c te eff cently the p ec e nfo mat on nee e to pee p cng ec on n make them e pon ve to co t of ong bu ne .

The negot to g ee th t fo ll new ug n many me c l ev ce (nclu ng many n-vto gno t c), p cel tng will be po ve qu te ly -- gnfc nt nc e e n frequency th t will e uce el y between pp ov l n p cel tng to no mo e th n 90 y ; n t on, MHW h committe t elf n p nc ple to el y of no mo e th n 60 y (n l mite c e , uch when few tems e e y fo l tng n p cng ue e not cont ove l, t might be po ble to ho ten the el y So bout 30 y). New, nnov tve n-vto gno t c (tho e n Cl , n the MHW cl f c ton) will be nt o ce nto the embu ement y tem with n x month fte the pp ov l . The ech nge will be mplemente ung J p n' f c l ye (JFY) 1986.

A eg the c te et by the Chu kyo n t el be ton n u e by MHW, eve l ch nge we e g ee upon by the negot to . The fo mul ue fo c lcul tng new ug p ce n fo ev ng ug t ff t n will be ma e publ c. When the e fo mul e to be ch nge , oppo tun te will be po ve fo fo egn well ome t c n u ty ep e ent tve to exp e the v ewson gene l ue of embu ement polcy. n t on, MHW, fte con ult t on with the Chu kyo, wile t bl h n nnounce n JFY 1986 t gene l ule fo ettng n ev ng p ce of me c l ev ce n n-vto gno t c .

T n p ency

When the MOSS t lk beg n, the U.S. te m note th t fo egn f ms h n uff c ent oppo tun ty to commun c te with the egul to y utho te on techn c l matte no e to pee up n mp ove the egul to y p oce e fo me c l po uct . A ple ge to nc e et n p ency n ll egul to y bo e key element of J p n' ma ket-open ng effo t , t te cle ly by P me M n te N k one n July 1985. The U.S. e eque te th t t n p ency p nc ple be exte e to ll pect of the J p ne e egul to y p oce , nclu ng the Cent l Ph maceut c l Aff Counc l (CPAC), the Chu kyo n MHW t elf.

Du ng the cou e of the t lk , the U.S. eleg t on note with pp ec t on th t MHW h te ly nc e e both the frequency n the openne of fo mal n nfo mal cu on on pp ov l n othe matte with fo egn f m n the ep e ent tve g oup . U.S. cont ct with ep e ent tve of fo egn f ms eve le gh level of t f ct on on the p t of tho e bu ne e with th poge ve tt tu e of MHW off c l t ll level . MHW conf me th t t wil cont nue th ucce ful polcy.

The negot to g ee on eve l fo mal tep to nc e e the t n p ency of the egul to y y tem. The CPAC' "Common n t uct on " will be ma e publ c n meet ng will be hel to expl n them. Du ng CPAC el be ton , ppl c nt fo new ug pp ov l will ece ve oppo tun te to he n t uct on f om CPAC membe , to k que t on , n to comment on the Counc l' n t uct on . A note bove, fo egn well ome t c n u ty ep e ent tve will be ble to p e ent the v ewsto the Chu kyo on gene l embu ement polcy ue when the gene l ule of the t ff fo me c l fee o the ug t ff e to be e t bl he o I

changed. The consultation with the Chugai, MHW also will establish during JF 18 procedures to closed hearings at which individual companies representing (including producers) if they wish to accompany applicants in representing (including producers) may state to MHW their opinions on pricing of their particular products; these hearings will receive testimony on efficacy, desired prices, and other arguments regarding the products as an issue; and MHW will provide adequate public notice when the hearings are to be held.

II. ISSUES RESOLVED

A. ACCEPTANCE OF FOREIGN CLINICAL TEST DATA

1. Issue

In both the United States and Japan, manufacturers of medical devices and pharmaceuticals must submit new products to extensive battery of pre-clinical and clinical trials in order to demonstrate adequacy and efficacy. The data derived from these trials provide the substantial basis of regulatory decisions.

Japan's regulatory authorities historically had not accepted foreign-generated clinical test data. In other words, in specific applications involving his or her abroad, a foreign firm had to perform all of the clinical trials required by the Japanese approval process, on Japanese subjects in Japan.

The U.S. side explained that these existing requirements had serious make effects. First, the duplication of testing, which is extremely costly, placed upon foreign firms a cost burden which their domestic competitors in Japan did not have to face. Second, duplication of testing in Japan brought about delays in product marketing.

The Japanese side noted that it was aware of problems in this regard, and that it had established a group of scientific experts to study the problem of the acceptance of foreign clinical data.

2. Agreed approach

Expert-level discussions took place between the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and MHW in May 1985 in Rockville, Maryland, regarding each nation's policies of the acceptance of foreign clinical test data in making regulatory approvals. At that time experts discussed the possibility of setting, bilaterally or multilaterally, common standards of the acceptance of foreign clinical test data. The FDA and MHW agreed in principle that it is desirable to work toward a system of international harmonization. Following these expert discussions, the United States and Japan resolved at their June 1985 talks in Tokyo to promote the acceptance of foreign clinical test data to regulatory purposes in Japan.

Japan agreed to accept foreign clinical test data to regulatory approval of pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and in-vitro diagnostic reagents, as follows:

(1) With regard to pharmaceuticals, foreign clinical test data will now be accepted for all examination/testing requirements except for the following: hematological and clinical chemistry; immunological and clinical chemistry; and absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion tests.

(2) Foreign clinical test data will now be accepted for in-vitro diagnostic reagents except those with new parameters (i.e., those which measure an entirely new substance as a diagnostic indicator), and those in which immunological reaction problems could occur with the materials to be tested.

(3) Foreign clinical test data will now be accepted for medical devices except those implanted in the human body and those affecting organic adaptability.

The relevant regulatory action taken by Japan is as follows:

-- Notification No. 660, "Handling of Foreign Clinical Data of Pharmaceuticals, etc." (dated: June 2, 1985; effective: July 31, 1985).

B. "TIME CLOCK" OR "STANDARD PROCESSING PERIOD" FOR NEW PRODUCTS

1. Issue

The U.S. seeks to help the applicant in Japan for a system of standard processing procedures so that the United States. The U.S. seeks that standard processing procedures will remove the possibility for excessive delays in licensing which sometimes occur in the Japanese system, and generally eliminate costly uncertainties which affect both Japanese and foreign firms. It would contribute to and hasten progress toward the ultimate fulfillment of the approval processes.

2. Regulatory approach

Since October 1, 1985, MHW introduces standard processing procedures so that the FDA's "time clock" procedures. These standard procedures are in effect as to limits for the approval process; where feasible, as in the past, applications in processing times can and will be shorter. If an application cannot be processed within these periods, the applicant will be so informed and given the reasons. MHW can "stop the clock" only when it is necessary for the applicant to correct incomplete applications, conduct additional tests, or answer inquiries from MHW. The standard processing procedures begin with the submission of applications to prefectural offices and end with the issuance of a license in Tokyo. (Note: The kyokasho normally issues simultaneously with the license.) The approval takes effect when issued by MHW in Tokyo.

The standard processing procedures are as follows:

New Drugs: Eighteen Months

"Me-TOX" Drugs: Two Years*

OTC Drugs: Ten Months

In-Vitro: Six Months

Quasi-Drugs: Six Months A

Medical Devices: One Year

"Me-TOX" Devices: Four Months

Cosmetics: Three Months

The relevant regulatory action taken by Japan is as follows:

-- Notification No. 960, "Setting of Standard Processing Procedures" (date: October 1, 1985; effective: October 1, 1985).

*Provisional.

C. REGULATION OF IN-VITRO DIAGNOSTIC REAGENTS

1. Issue

The field of in-vitro diagnostic reagents is rapidly changing, highly innovative, and complex market. Product cycles can be very short as product advances are made. Pursuant to the MOSS negotiations, Japan has indicated a system for premarket review to speed the issuance of licenses for these products. As a result, foreign firms, the U.S. seeks to explain, sometimes face delay and uncertainty which can preclude market entry when product cycles are short and constant change in technology is pervasive.

The discussions centered on streamlining the Japanese approval process in this area so that the system could (1) respond quickly and efficiently to major reform of categories already approved products, and (2) reserve for stricter regulatory scrutiny only those cases where safety and efficacy concerns are required.

2. Regulatory approach

When experts from FDA and MHW met in May 1985 in Rockville, Maryland, they discussed each nation's policies for the regulation of in-vitro diagnostic products as well as for the acceptance of foreign clinical test data. Following these expert discussions, Japan announced at the June 1985 talks the promulgation of a separate regulatory A

channel for the actual financial diagnosis, and also the acceptance of foreign clinical standards in actual applications as described previously. I was agreed that:

(1) Applications for financial diagnosis will be received and examined separately from medical applications; and

(2) The categories for financial diagnosis will be set out: (a) new applications; (b) new products; and (c) old applications. The actual equipment for categories (b) and (c) will be simplified.

The following regulations were taken by Japan as follows:

-- Notification No. 662, "Handling of In-Vitro Diagnostic Reagents" (dated: June 29, 1985; effective: July 31, 1985) and

-- Notification No. 5, "Handling of Shunt Applications for In-Vitro Diagnostic Reagents" (dated: July 15, 1985; effective: July 31, 1985).-14-

D. TRANSFER OF APPROVAL

1. Issue

In dynamic, rapidly changing industries, such as those making medical equipment and pharmaceuticals, economic efficiency and good business practice for equipment changes in commercial relations by manufacturers and investors. This factor has special significance in the Japanese market due to the fact that, historically, foreign firms have entered the market in stages in order to (1) investigate and keep the market, (2) investigate and develop, (3) licensing of manufacturers of Japanese firms, and (4) establish a network of subsidiaries in Japan. Manufacturers of products may be required to do this through wholesalers. As foreign firms have entered these stages and adapted to the Japanese market, changes in commercial relations need to be highly accelerated, subject to legal requirements (e.g., patent rights) and contracts, as well as MHW's regulatory obligations for the health and safety of the Japanese people.

The U.S. and Japanese delegations discussed Japanese procedures for fully allowing the transfer of (shunt) equipment changes in commercial relations in Japan. The U.S. side said that the regulatory system established the ability for foreign firms to make such changes. In the change of manufacturer of an approved product, the foreign firm, MHW, equipped the local subsidiary and information and obtained a new shunt. When the firm was unwilling to change, the change was extremely difficult.

The U.S. side said that such difficulties in changing a product could occur in cases where commercial relations, such as licensing agreements, had been legally established. In the U.S., however, the established, effective, contractual relationship between the contractual relationship and the marketing of business firms and the related relations governed by the regulatory system also held, with the local firm continuing and receiving market share in the local market.

The U.S. side said that this issue had several specific, practical implications for foreign firms operating business in Japan as follows:

-- Until 1975, in essence, under the Foreign Exchange Control Law, which was changed in that year, generally, export of foreign firms for making decisions in Japan in facilities. Thus, the financial means for the Japanese market was available as a license for Japanese firms. The U.S. side said that which involved in Japan after 1975 were able, but found it extremely difficult and inconsistent, because manufacturing a product because under the basic framework of the PAL, the manufacturing of a product has no relation with the sales and distribution held by firms.

-- In 1983, through the issuance of the PAL, Japan agreed that all manufacturers of foreign countries should shunt in the domestic market when they enter Japan and the products under administration. The U.S. side said that the foreign firms which previously had been licensed to produce in Japan were required in Japan through Japanese firms holding the shunt to produce and effect the change of his 1983 change of the industry and the market.

products. U.S. side also stated that in 1983 Congress intended only to allow new products imported and introduced to the Japanese market by foreign firms for the first time.

Moreover, the U.S. side noted that MHW had no mechanism for the transfer (or revocation and reissuance to new applicants) of sonin in any of the many situations in which changing business and commercial relations might make such transfers advantageous for foreign firms when they would clearly and legally demonstrate proprietary rights (e.g., patents) under Japanese business law.

This broad issue was a difficult one for both sides. The U.S. team saw it primarily as one dealing with intellectual property, namely, the right of foreign firms to hold and benefit from their proprietary innovations as they choose, subject only to MHW's undisputed mandate to protect the health and safety of the Japanese people.

Japan's side asserted that it is most appropriate to require the manufacturer or importer, who is within the Japanese jurisdiction, to bear all the responsibilities for efficacy, safety, and quality of the product in order to protect the health and safety of the Japanese people. For that purpose, the regulatory system requires the manufacturer or importer to obtain sonin and kyoka individually for each product. In other words, under the PAL, MHW has the grave responsibility to confirm that the manufacturer or importer has full knowledge and information on efficacy, safety, and quality control of the product and is able to do its business under all obligations imposed by the law. In that sense, the Japanese side noted, the present legislative framework is most efficient, reasonable, and practical in order to protect the health and safety of the general public.

Furthermore, the Japanese side commented that the PAL, a public law for health regulation, has no concern with private business relations or proprietary rights governed by private laws and leaves private disputes for the Patent Law, the Civil Law, the Code of Commerce, etc. Sonin does not interfere with patents or proprietary rights.

On the other hand, the Japanese side agreed to consider simplification of relevant documents and speed up of approval procedures for changing manufacturers to the extent that they are considered to be able to take their own responsibilities for public health and safety.

2. Agreed Approach

a. Transfers When Both Parties Agree

Transfer of manufacturing approvals will now be enabled so that firms can register in their own names all rights and titles to their products without having to register and submit data upon the termination of their relevant business relations with the former approval or licensee. It was agreed that the transfer of manufacturing approvals is permitted:

- (1) Upon submission of a transfer notification with accompanying documentation that shows that both parties have agreed to the transfer; and
- (2) Provided that the transfer receives from the transferor all data on efficacy, safety, and quality of the relevant pharmaceutical or medical device.

After the transfer, the product's reimbursement price will be listed at the same level as that applied before the transfer. Issuance of kyoka and price listing will occur at the time of a sonin transfer if an application for kyoka and notification are received at least three months prior to the date of transfer. Otherwise, the kyoka will be issued and the price will be listed within three months after the date of application.

Relevant regulatory action taken by Japan is as follows:

Ministerial Ordinance No. 26 (dated: June 29, 1985; effective: July 31, 1985)

Notification No. 658, "Implementation of the Ministerial Ordinance for Partial Revision of the Enforcement Regulations, Pharmaceutical Affairs Law" (dated: June 29, 1985; effective: July 31, 1985); No. 1 (1) "Items Concerning Transfer of Approvals"

b. Transfers When Both Parties Do Not Agree -

In the case that the parties do not agree to the transfer of manufacturing intellectual property, if the applicant submits data and information of the intellectual property that equaled in the case of the transfer when the parties agree, and at the same time the original intellectual property holder ceases to manufacture and import the product after the new intellectual property is granted to the applicant, simplification of administrative procedures, and acceleration of the intellectual property process, will occur, with the same effect and within the same time period as in case 2a above. The reimbursement will be at the same level as the previously awarded product within three months after the new hearing is issued.

c. Transfer of Manufacturing to Importing and Vice Versa

In case of changing manufacturing to importing and vice versa, administrative requirements and simplified procedures identical to those in case 2a above will apply. As a result, the same effect as in case 2a above will be achieved.

Official notice implementing the procedures described in paragraph 2 and 2c above will be issued in March 1986, to take effect on April 1, 1986.

d. Foreign-U.S.

The United States and Japan have agreed to conduct a study of the transfer of intellectual property in a case-by-case basis if they agree within the framework of the Foreign-U.S. procedures described in Chapter IV of the treaty. Both sides are committed to finding practical solutions to legitimate concerns that arise in this area.

E. APPROPRIAL AND REIMBURSEMENT FEES

1. Intellectual Property Rights

Among the many advances of modern medicine and health care delivery have been the emergence in the world market of the "kit" which combine medicine with their delivery systems in single package. Such kit generally offers many advantages such as how well we educate (non-kit) delivery systems:

- (1) They mitigate infectious risk;
- (2) They reduce the risk of mistake in dosage administration because dosage is precisely pre-packaged;
- (3) They eliminate emergency treatment;
- (4) They guarantee improved treatment quality;
- (5) When used in clinic and hospital, they eliminate waste and facilitate inventory control, which lead to material cost reduction; and
- (6) They are convenient, safe, and labor-saving.

During the MOSS discussion, the U.S. and Japanese delegations agreed that Japan did not have fully consolidated intellectual property, and licensing procedures of the kit, because of their distinctive features as the unique combination of drug and delivery systems. As a result, the introduction of the new technology product into the Japanese market had been delayed. Yet such procedures needed to be worked out in order for the kit to be allowed into the Japanese market smoothly.

The U.S. identified that the following specific difficulties needed to be solved.

Concerning intellectual property,

- (1) MHW had no time limit within which to decide whether to approve a kit.
- (2) It equaled manufacture through the entire drug intellectual property for a kit even when the drug portion of the kit had already been granted intellectual property for manufacture. (The Japanese view on drug intellectual property, see Section D, page 15.) On

(3) The semiconductor manufacture, which is becoming increasingly common technology advances, was ruled out.

Concerning pricing,

(1) The health insurance reimbursement system covered only the drug portion of the total health care cost mechanism for reimbursing the total value of the health services that its service could be deemed to compensate.

(2) A mechanism that would be used for setting reimbursement prices in the truly innovative future, namely, the universal combination drug and delivery system which gives the patient its medication and electronic devices.

2. Agreed Approach

1. Approach

The Government of Japan gave the U.S. Government proposals on the proposed procedures for its. According to the proposals, MHW will accept applications for proposals for procedure and set reimbursement prices for its. Either the manufacturer of the drug component or the manufacturer of the device component or it may be the holder of the proposal and may be the manufacturer of the component.

MHW promised to carry out the proposed procedure for the product by issuing a notification. The contents will be as follows:

(1) The product itself will be treated as a drug in the proposed process.

(2) When the manufacturer of a pharmaceutical, which has already obtained its proposal, desires to manufacture the product using the already proposed pharmaceutical, he is required to seek a modification of the proposal from the pharmaceutical (the processing period is within one year).

(3) When a manufacturer of a container and a subsidiary (hereafter referred to as "device manufacturer") desires to manufacture it, it shall apply for a proposal for the product and arrange for a modification of the drug proposal, following simplified MHW procedures. It is understood that (a) the drug manufacturer is considered the manufacturer of the product modification of the drug proposal, and (b) the manufacturer applying for the proposal must supply copies of the data (developed by either party) supporting the product drug proposal and the origin shall be held by the drug manufacturer. Both proposals will occur at the same time and will be provided by MHW within one year.

The United States accepted the proposals with the following agreed conditions:

(1) Approval requirements are essentially the same for device and drug manufacturers applying. For applications from device manufacturers, the two-part proposal procedures will be handled simultaneously.

(2) Approvals will be granted in the same period of time irrespective of whether an application is filed by a drug or device manufacturer, initially no more than one year. MHW agrees to make efforts to shorten further the processing time and intends to do so when feasible.

(3) Either party, the device or drug manufacturer, may hold the manufacturing share and there can be the assignment.

(4) Commercial arrangements between the assignor and the assignee will not be interfered with by MHW. MHW will regulate the relationship by registering the security and efficacy of the product.

(5) Commercialized manufacturing is accepted for two types of products covered by MHW's proposals, which is intended to be general subsidiary for drug and delivery system combinations. The negotiations have discussed four types most commonly in use outside Japan and the proposal is based on these examples. The negotiations agreed to find in future a way to support practices utilizing any new problems that might emerge as technology advances.

b. Pricing

(1) The kernel itself will be treated as a debug in the embedded system.

(2) Considering the design features of the kernel, the embedded system will be based on the elements 1) the kernel debug affs and address of the hardware calculation and the kernel; 2) the kernel debug affs and address of the software kernel; and 3) the software kernel hardware calculation which shows the design features of the kernel. Pricing will be based on a formula which includes the sum of these hardware elements by a fixed percentage premium for the kernel debug demonstrations across an embedded calculation advances from (1) (4) which are sold in the software hardware section. This premium, 3 percent as a standard, can range from a minimum of 1.5 percent to a maximum of 4.5 percent depending on the size of the sum.

(3) When the debug affs and design features of the hardware are made for debugs, the general calculation rule for debugs will be applied for the kernel debug based on the hardware software kernel self, regardless of the hardware calculations software kernel.

c. Implementation

Official notices implementing the agreed approach for handling a valuation will be issued in March 1986, take effect in April 1, 1986. When kits have been approved according to such procedures, pricing will be executed in accordance with the aforementioned agreed approach.

F. CHANGE OF COUNTRY OF MANUFACTURE

1. Issue

Leading hardware calculation and medical device firms of the world have multinational manufacturing operations and frequently shift production locations from country to country in response to changing market and the business conditions. As a result of the MOSS talks, MHW's regulatory system equaled the procedure for modification of a valuation whenever a foreign firm wished to make such a change in manufacturing of a previously approved product. The U.S. sided with the procedure created an unnecessary cost for doing business in the Japanese market, and equaled the MHW relaxation of a valuation modification requirements to the foreign firms change country of manufacture with simple notification MHW.

2. Agreed Approach

For users of Japanese regulations for foreign medical device and hardware calculation companies, a change in the country of production for already approved products will now equal simple notification MHW.

The relevant regulatory actions taken by Japan are as follows

-- Ministerial Ordinance No. 26 (dated June 29, 1985; effective July 31, 1985):

-- Notification No. 658, "Implementation of the Ministerial Ordinance for Partial Revisions of the Enforcement Regulations, Pharmaceutical Affairs Law" (dated June 29, 1985; effective July 31, 1985); No. 1 (2), "Items Related to Notification of Changes in the Substance of Country of Importing, etc., Articles."

G. MINOR PRODUCT MODIFICATIONS

1. Issue

This problem concerned MHW's handling of minor product modifications (e.g., clerical changes in functional or external design changes) had no effect safety or performance of medical equipment, which did not require modifications of a valuation. MHW had no guidelines for which types of product changes equaled modifications of a valuation. The consequence, in the view of the U.S. side, was that foreign firms faced an uncertainty and difficulties in compliance, and that the notification in Japan for products with minor modifications could be impeded.

2. Agreed Approach:

MHW has recommended that minor changes to medical devices which do not substantially affect their performance be approved. The regulatory guidelines, MHW has made largely identical examples minor product modifications that do not require modifications be approved. This information has been supplied to Customs authorities and related agencies.

The relevant regulatory authority by Japan is as follows: k

-- Notification No. 155, "Handling of Application for Import Approval of Medical Devices" k (date: June 29, 1985).

H. CHANGE OF ADDRESS OF IMPORTER

1. Issue

When an importer has approved medical device pharmaceutical product has its address in Japan, for purposes of the information that the structure and equipment its ability are compatible with the legal standards as well as public availability and maintenance of relevant approval records and advisers a data, MHW requires the importer to apply for a change. The U.S. side stated that MHW procedures in this area require cross-sectional information and to avoid disruptive importer's business practices.

2. Agreed Approach

The United States and Japan agreed that (1) application procedures for a change of address by importers as well as manufacturers would be simplified by mitigating duties that are irrelevant to the change of address (such as the related duties of importation, qualification of the product, physiological suitability), and that (2) prior application for a change of the address was a potential source of disruptive business practices.

The relevant regulatory authority by Japan are as follows:

-- Ministerial Order No. 26 (date: June 29, 1985; effective: July 31, 1985).

-- Notification No. 658, "Implementation of the Ministerial Order for Partial Revision of the Enforcement Regulations, Pharmaceutical Affairs Law" (date: June 29, 1985; effective: July 31, 1985); No. 3, "Handling of Cases Where Factors of Business are Moved" -25

I. SIMPLIFICATION OF IMPORT CLEARANCE PROCEDURES

1. Issue

At the outset of the negotiations, MHW required importers to obtain certification of the products through MHW officials which showed that the imported products (and the importers) complied with MHW regulations and were in compliance with applicable laws (such as safety, quality, etc.). The U.S. side said that these procedures are substantially additional administrative work for importers. With this in mind, the United States and Japan discussed the simplification of import clearance procedures for approved products through a single clearance by customs, as is done in the United States.

2. Agreed Approach

It was agreed that:

-- Importers of pharmaceuticals and medical devices will now be permitted to pass through Japanese customs with only MHW's individual certification (as was formerly required) without the importers presenting a copy of the laws (such as safety) and the certification of the product to the customs (as is required under the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law).

The relevant regulatory authority by Japan is as follows:

-- Notification No. 667, "Regulation of Customs for Importation of Pharmaceuticals, etc." k (date: June 29, 1985; effective: August 1, 1985).

J. HEALTH INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT SYSTEM k

1. Issue

The on-lie Insurance system of Japan covers nearly 100 percent of the Japanese population. Therefore, reimbursement of physicians, hospitals, and clinics from the lie insurance system is dominant factor in the market entry of pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

The U.S. depends on foreign manufacturers of drugs and devices. We'd greatly influence underspending MHW goes about setting reimbursement rates and delays in setting reimbursement rates. We've used unnecessary frustration and costs.

The MO discusses on issues covered free related issues: (1) timing for setting reimbursement prices; (2) criteria used in the official price-setting process; and (3) transparency and public visibility of the process, including appropriate participation in the process by those whose products are ultimately priced.

The first issue concerned both the frequency of new pricing decisions and the related question of delays between manufacturing or import approval and the establishment of reimbursement prices for approved products.

In discussing the second issue, the U.S. delegation sought information regarding criteria in evaluating products for pricing decisions and asked these criteria be made public. The U.S. delegation was especially concerned about one criterion -- market penetration (i.e., general acceptance and use of particular product by the Japanese medical community). This criterion, the U.S. delegation added, impeded market entry because made pricing decisions difficult to obtain for innovative medical technology not uniformly available throughout Japan.

The Japanese side responded. Such is proper for MHW to judge whether particular medical technology should be available to the general public. The on-lie Insurance scheme covers nearly 100 percent of the Japanese population and, therefore, MHW must be concerned with equity when judging how best to provide an adequate level of medical care for the people.

The Japanese side also explained under the new program initiated in October 1984, medical devices incorporated greatly advanced technologies and are intended for use universally. Hospitals and equivalent facilities will be reviewed for one year for reimbursement by an expert group of the Cuckoo. If MHW concludes favorable receiving group's report, items could be included in the on-lie Insurance system, reimbursement price will be listed in the next revision of the fees for medical services. The reimbursement system will cover the ancillary costs involved in using the device during the period prior to the Cuckoo review. During the course of the MO talks in 1985, 16 greatly advanced medical technologies in 56 classes, 31 hospitals received designation under the program.

Discussion on the third issue revolved around similar request -- not only decisions criteria be made public but also all interested parties be given opportunity to provide appropriate information and argument on a responsible basis (including the Cuckoo) in the price-setting process.

2. Agreed Approach

The United States and Japan agreed on the free issues in the lie insurance reimbursement areas follows:

(1) Timing for setting reimbursement prices.

New drugs will be regularly listed four times a year in accordance with the timing of manufacturing or import approval for the purpose of reference in production of new drug application for approval.

They will be listed as soon as possible for approval, within 60 days in principle, and no later than 90 days.

This policy will be applied for new drugs approved in and after JFY 1986.

b. New medical devices and non-virodignoscics will be handled as follows, in accordance with the medical Science technologies for which they applied.

i. The high ceiling mechanism for technology is identical to the system of "high ceiling" treatment" in which the basic charges such as hospitalization fees are reimbursed, after MHW consults with the expert group under the huik o (the meeting is to be held once a month). MHW will introduce the product to the general reimbursement system at the time of the revision of the tariff for medical fees, if it recognizes the introduction as appropriate after one year from signing the "high ceiling" treatment."

ii. Other new medical technologies will be regularly introduced to the reimbursement system four times a year.

However, those for which new points should be provided under the "fee-for-service" reimbursement system will be introduced to the system at the time of revision of the tariff for medical fees. New innovations - introduction of diagnostics (class IVDs) will be introduced to the reimbursement system within six months after their approval, with implementation by MHW in JFY 1986.

(2) The criteria used in the official price-setting process.

a. Opportunities for learning from foreign as well as domestic industry representatives on general issues of reimbursement policy will be provided whenever the formula for the revision of the drug tariff is revised or the calculation formula for prices of new drugs, each of which was established by the huik o in September 1982, is changed. The formula will be made public.

b. The general rules for setting revision prices of medical devices - introduction of diagnostics will be established by MHW, after consultation with the huik o, in JFY 1986.

(3) The transparency of the process.

a. The opinions of foreign as well as domestic industry representatives will be heard in the huik o, whenever the general rules of the tariff for medical fees or of the drug tariff are to be established or changed.

b. Opportunities to state opinions on their particular products will be provided by MHW for individual companies. The procedures for hearings will be made public. Rules concerning the participation of the companies concerned will be made.

i. At the hearings, testimony on the efficacy, desirability, price, other aspects regarding the product being applied for will be heard. The hearings will not be open to the public. If the originator so desires, he will be given the opportunity to testify with the public testimony to state his opinions.

ii. The timetable for the hearings will be made public at least one week or 10 days before the hearings take place.

(4) The measures listed in (2) and (3) will be implemented in JFY 1986 after consultation with the huik o.

K. TRANSPARENCY OF THE APPROVAL PROCESS

(Note: The issue of transparency in the price reimbursement decision process is covered in Section J on the health insurance reimbursement system.)

1. Issue

The United States Japan Joint Committee affirmed the importance of transparency in the health care regulation, as emphasized in the July 30, 1985 Action Program.

At the start of the MOSS talks, foreign firms felt that the operations of the PA and MHW in the approval process were not transparent enough, that the system made it unnecessarily difficult to solicit timely relevant information from them, and to transmit public information that would be of use to them. The United States Japan Joint Committee discussed ways of increasing the transparency of the regulatory process in Japan for the benefit of Japanese foreign manufacturers of pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

During the course of the talks, the U.S. delegation noted with appreciation that MHW had established procedures both for the frequent use of formal and informal discussion of proposals and other matters with foreign companies.

firms and their representatives. U.S. consuls will representatives of foreign firms review a list of satisfaction on the part of those businesses with its responsiveness to the MHW officials and officials.

2. Agreement

With regard to new regulatory process, it was agreed that:

The Agency will be given one or more instructions directly from members of CPAC, to ask questions, and to make comments on the Council's instructions.

The number of persons and amount of time allocated to the Agency will be fixed for a period.

The Council's "common instructions" will be made public and meetings will be held to explain them.

In addition, MHW will continue its successful policy of frequent, often informal exchanges of information and discussion of regulatory matters with its representatives, both individually and through organizations such as the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) and the Economic and Commercial Representatives of the U.S. Embassy. As noted above, its responsiveness to the Japanese government is a major factor in the good relations between the two countries and MHW officials and officials.

The relevant regulatory action taken by Japan is as follows:

Notification No. 664, Transmission of Instructions Concerning New Drugs, etc., from the Central Pharmaceutical Affairs Council" (dated: June 29, 1985; effective: July 1, 1985).

L. BLOOD PRODUCTS AND OTHER BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS

1. Issue

The U.S. delegation to the Japanese representatives is an important market for blood and other biological products and for the regulation of these products is important. In this view, talks focus on two areas of U.S. concerns:

The number and kinds of suppliers of manufacturers, importers, and Japanese National Institute of Health (NIH) for the safety of these products, and the relevant laws caused by the unregulated; and

The export of blood products and the group which foreign manufacturers can control their involvement for manufacturing.

2. Agreement

Experts from FDA and MHW met in Rockville, Maryland, in November 1985 to discuss regulatory policies of both countries concerning the safety of blood products. As a result, the Japanese Government agreed to make the following changes:

To work toward harmonization of international blood standards and eliminate obsolete standards. A decision in this direction was taken when MHW published revisions and standards for blood products in October 1985.

To carry out inspections of foreign manufacturing facilities to ensure compliance with good manufacturing practices (GMP) regulations. As for blood products which require national licensing, MHW will accept data from firms in compliance with Japanese GMP standards and will eliminate the need for Japanese import or sales before allowing for national licensing by NIH. For reasons, in general, under national licensing program, safety, quality, hygiene, and abnormal toxicity will continue to be reformulated by NIH. (This measure will become effective April 1, 1986.)

On this issue, the U.S. sincerely recognizes Japanese policy which in principle prohibits export of blood products. The Japanese Government's serious restriction on export of blood products in the same form as they were imported and which does not violate their export policy, as in the case of blood products in need for manufacturing.

M. VITAMINS -

1. Issue

The case historically have used three criteria for regulating vitamins: the source or form of the product, (2) whether dosage is specified, and (3) whether the manufacturer makes the claim. According to MHW, if any of these criteria are likely to provide the average consumer with the understanding that the time of sale of the substance is medicinal use, then it is classified as a drug. The criteria mentioned above are supported by the Supreme Court.

With the MOSS discussion on this issue, the U.S. side first requested that MHW clarify its criteria for regulating vitamins. Upon receipt of the clarification, the U.S. side further requested that MHW eliminate the dosage requirements to permit the sale of vitamins in food supplements. Similar products that are sold as food supplements in the United States regarding regulated drugs. The U.S. side said that there are two difficulties in giving product regulated pharmaceuticals so close to food. First, legally, no process exists for pharmaceutical products. Second, vitamins regulated pharmaceuticals have limited distribution system.

The case said that in their view, the regulation of vitamins must be decided on the basis of the historical background and the recognition of drugs in each country. Therefore, it is impossible to compare the respective criteria. In Europe, each country has its own system for regulating vitamins. The case said that the U.S. regulation is not the best because of problems of overuse.

MHW explained to the U.S. side its criteria used to regulate vitamins. MHW also explained that the procedure to get remarketed food of vitamins in drugs is generally simple and that vitamins regulated even drugs are widely available in pharmacies and drugstores without prescription.

In addition to the regulatory concern, the U.S.-European negotiators mentioned related tariff issue. Vitamins are regulated drugs are subject to 4.9 percent tariff rate. Vitamins are regulated foods, however, are classified as "miscellaneous edible preparations" under 25-28 percent tariff. The negotiators effectively makes foreign-reduced vitamins are more competitive in the European market. The U.S. side stated that the most appropriate resolution would be to eliminate the regulation of vitamins in pharmaceuticals, but resolution of the regulatory issue, without resolution of the related tariff issue, would create another problem for foreign manufacturers who previously imported products as drugs and only 4.9 percent tariff, and then found themselves paying 25-28 percent tariff to import their products as food.

2. Agreed Arrangements

The FDA and MHW experts discussed regulatory issues in November 1985 in Rockville, Maryland. In these discussions, both sides recognized that significant differences exist in each country's approach toward the regulation of vitamins. As a result, the United States and the European side agreed to further meetings to explore and consider possible alternatives. Both sides also agreed that the promising solution to explore would be one involving regulation of vitamins in over-the-counter drugs, with remarketed foods to be made as fast as possible. Among other advantages, this approach would remove the associated tariff problem, as such vitamins would continue to be subject to the 4.9 percent tariff for drugs.

b. With regard to the tariff issue, the text of the December talks to the U.S. side requested list of vitamins products which presently are regulated as foods. The case side agreed to examine the matters as soon as possible based upon the materials provided by the United States.

c. The two sides had difficulty in agreeing on the time schedule for all of the issues, including that described in paragraph (b) above. The problem was that the issues had received their first intensive discussion at the experts' level in November 1985, and had not yet been discussed at the significant detail level, particularly at the political level of the MOSS negotiators.

The two sides agreed to hold continued talks in the experts' group before the first follow-up meeting at the political level in 1986. The entire problem of vitamins will receive full attention at the first political level follow-up meeting at the political level in 1986, at which time schedules will be discussed and effort will be made to resolve the problem. 3

N. STABILITY AND STABILITY TESTING

1. Issue

a. Accelerated Condition

In June 1985, MHW issued improved regulations for pharmaceutical products stored at room temperature which allowed the manufacturer to submit a new drug application accompanied by one-year interim stability data at room temperature and six-month accelerated stability data. For products which are not expected to be stable at room temperature, however (for example, products which require refrigeration), Japan had not defined acceptable accelerated test criteria. For such products, Japan required that the manufacturer wait until the full data of the long-term stability study under proposed conditions be available before submitting the new drug application. This meant that submission of the new drug application for such products had to be delayed until the real-time stability data had been generated.

b. Sterility Testing

Prior to the MOSS discussions, MHW regulations required that when an importer in Japan wanted to import an injectable product, the importer in Japan had to (1) have facilities to conduct sterility tests and animal tests, and (2) conduct them as acceptance tests. The regulation prohibited the foreign manufacturer or a third party in Japan from conducting these tests. The U.S. side said that when the importer did not have the facilities to conduct such tests, this requirement necessitated additional facilities investment which was both costly and time consuming.

c. Matrix Testing

The U.S. side raised the concern that in Japan real-time stability data had to be generated for all sizes and concentrations of drugs (including in-vitro diagnostics). In other words, the U.S. side believed that if a manufacturer produced a product with five concentrations and packaged it in five containers of different sizes, he had to generate real-time stability data for all concentrations at all sizes.

2. Agreed Approach

a. Accelerated Condition

Expert-level meetings took place at Fukuoka in November 1985. As a result of those meetings, the Japanese side agreed that regardless of whether or not the product is stable at room temperature, a new drug application can be submitted if it is accompanied by one-year real-time stability data, accelerated stability test data, and severe test data, as defined in MHW's notifications (No. 06, March 31, 1980, and No. 718, May 30, 1980). The method for conducting the accelerated study on the products which are not expected to be stable at room temperature can be decided by the manufacturer and will be evaluated by MHW on a case-by-case basis.

The applicant will be required to continue the real-time stability test to completion after the new drug application is submitted. All real-time data must be submitted to MHW and will be reflected in the approval.

This measure will be effective April 1, 1986.

b. Sterility Testing

Both sides agreed that sterility tests (and animal tests) for pharmaceuticals and medical devices can be contracted out to certain Japanese labs certified to conduct such tests. The importer, however, remains responsible for quality control of the products. This measure will be effective April 1, 1986.

c. Matrix Testing

As the result of the experts meetings, the Japanese side clarified for the United States that as of June 8, 1985, long-term stability tests are not required for all different concentrations and volumes of a drug. Long-term stability, severe, and accelerated tests are only required for one product considered to be most sensitive under the storage conditions, and only simple accelerated tests or relative comparison tests are required for all other 4

concentration and volume as shown in the example below. The MHW procedure will permit some flexibility in applying the exhibit by testing tanks when reasonable ground exists.

Volume

10ml 0ml 50ml

Concentration

5% (a)(b)(c) () ()

10% (c) () ()

0% (c) () ()

(a) Long-term stability test (b) Secondary test

(c) Accelerated test () Relative comparison test

III. TECHNICAL EXPERTS GROUP

During the course of the MOSS task, both sides agree that the era factuation raises during the discussion require the attention of technical expert. Consequently, a technical expert group was established to discuss the estate matter under the instruction of the Japanese and U.S. delegation leaders. The discussion proved fruitful and actually led to the resolution of certain issues through cooperative scientific consultation at the technical level, without requiring negotiation at the penary level. As a result, the two sides agree to continue the expert group's existence as a forum for similar discussion in the future. The group will meet on an ad hoc basis as issues arise.

IV. FOLLOW-UP

As shown in the estate description in Chapter II of the issues discussed in the MOSS task and the agreed approach to solution, the subject matter of the discussion was highly complex. Agreement on solution could not in a case be easily reached to improve, comprehend statement.

The thrust and intention of both sides in the task, however, was to produce agreement that would improve if a mini-trading procedure, eliminate a mini-trading delay, increase transparency, further facilitate access to Japan's market for medical equipment and pharmaceuticals, and thus strengthen the free trade system with special reference to this industry sector. Given these shared objectives, both sides recognize that further discussion will be required, a implementation continue, to discuss any complication that arises and to handle related issues that need to be raised and resolved. In effect, the era of the "agreed approach" estate in Chapter II make special reference to the negotiator's commitment to find practical solution to resolve business problems, and to the anticipation that further discussion in a follow-up process may well be needed to obtain such solution.

To facilitate this need for ongoing discussion, therefore, both sides agree to schedule regular follow-up meetings, approximately every six months during 1986 and on schedule to be decided in later years as necessary, at intervals to be decided. The follow-up discussion will be at the penary level. The meeting will review the implementation of the agreed solution; review foreign firms' experience with the new rules and procedures that have been agreed upon; and resolve any related issues that may arise as experience accumulates.

V. GLOSSARY

Japanese Terms

Chui-kyo -- The Social Insurance Medical Affairs Council. A advisory body to MHW which deliberates the total amount of reimbursement and the general rule for reimbursement price. The Chui-kyo is made up of representatives of payer and payee of insurance reimbursement, and of the public interest. 2

CPAC -- Cent P ceutic Aff i s Council . Advisory body to MHW whic investig tes f o^m scientific oint
of view whet e it is pp op i te to pp ove nuf ctu ing o i^{mp}o t of new p ceutic s o^{me}dic devices

J Y -- J p nese fisc ye .

MHW -- Minist y of He t nd We f e.

NHI -- N tion He t Insu nce syste

PAL -- P ceutic Aff i s L w.

qu si-d ugs -- P oducts wit^{mi}d effects on t e u n body, suc s^{mo}ut wæs es, b by powde s, etc.

ei bu se^{me}nt p ice -- P ices given to p ceutic s, ^{me}dic tec no ogies, etc., by MHW fo ei^{mb}u se^{me}nt
unde t e N tion He t Insu nce syste^m.

U.S. Te

DA -- ood nd Drug Ad^{mi}nist tion.

ti^{me}c ock -- Pe iod du ing whic e t egu to y offici s ev u te^{me}dic p oducts to dete^{mi}ne s fety nd
effic cy.s

Gene Te^{ms}

bio ogic p oducts -- P oducts de ived f o^m bio ogic sou ces, suc s p s , v ccines, etc.

c inic tests -- Tests pe fo^{me}d on peop e to dete^{mi}ne t e s fety nd effic cy of p oduct.

GMP -- Good nuf ctu ing p ctices.

IVDs -- In-vit o di gnostic e gents. P oducts used in outside-t e-body tests, suc s bbit se u^m used fo u ine
p egn ncy tests.

-too" d ugs -- Gene ic d ugs.

OTC d ugs -- Ove -t e-counte d ugs

p e-c inic -- A tests conducted p io to c inic testing, including ni tests.

g ocedu e kit -- Co^{mb}in tion of ^{me}dicines wit t ei de ive y syste^{ms} in sing e p ck ge.

st bi ity tests -- Tests t t^{me} su e ow ti^{me}, te^{mp}e tu e, nd ot e conditions ffect t e qu ity (potency, etc.)
of d ug co^{mp}ounds.

st bi ity tests, cce e ted -- Tests t t si^{mu} te t e conditions of e -ti^{me} st bi ity tests in n cce e ted
pe iod, p oducing co b e esu ts. An cce e ted st bi ity test y ep ic te in six^{mo}nt s wh t e -ti
st bi ity test wou d do in two ye s o e.

st bi ity tests, e -ti^{me} -- St bi ity conducted unde t e ctu conditions (ti , etc.) fo whic d t e being
sou g t to dete ne t e s ef- ife of p oduct.
p e

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