6. Except as otherwise provided for in this Agreement, the lower indicative price shall be 150 Malaysian/Singapore cents per kilogramme, and the upper indicative price shall be 270 Malaysian/Singapore cents per kilogramme, for the first 30 months after the entry into force of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 31

Operation of the Buffer Stock

1. If, in relation to the price range provided for in article 30, or as subsequently revised in accordance with the provisions of articles 32 and 40, the market indicator price provided for in article 33 is:

(a) at or above the upper trigger action price, the Buffer Stock Manager shall defend the upper trigger action price by offering natural rubber for sale until the market indicator price falls below the upper trigger action price;

(b) above the upper intervention price, the Buffer Stock Manager may sell natural rubber in defence of the upper trigger action price;

(c) at the upper or lower intervention price, or between them, the Buffer Stock Manager shall neither buy nor sell natural rubber, except in order to carry out his responsibilities for rotation under article 36;

(d) below the lower intervention price, the Buffer Stock Manager may buy natural rubber in defence of the lower trigger action price;

(e) at or below the lower trigger action price, the Buffer Stock Manager shall defend the lower trigger action price by offering to buy natural rubber until the market indicator price exceeds the lower trigger action price.

2. When sales or purchases for the Buffer Stock reach the 400,000-tonne level, the Council shall, by special vote, decide whether to bring the contingency Buffer Stock into operation at:

(a) the lower or upper trigger action price, or

(b) any price between the lower trigger action price and the lower indicative price, or the upper trigger action price and the upper indicative price.

3. Unless the Council, by special vote, decides otherwise under paragraph 2 of this article, the Buffer Stock Manager shall use the contingency Buffer Stock to defend the lower indicative price by bringing the contingency Buffer Stock into operation when the market indicator price is at a level midway between the lower indicative price and the lower trigger action price, and to defend the upper indicative price by bringing the contingency Buffer Stock into operation when the market indicator price is at a level midway between the upper indicative price and the upper trigger action price.