

Agency: Russian Federation Committee on Land Resources and Land Management (Roskomzem). The deadline for satisfying conditions of effectiveness was recently extended from September 20, 1994 to November 21, 1994. Failure to meet these conditions has stemmed primarily from a lack of adequate staffing of the Project Development Unit and continued uncertainty over the legal foundations for carrying out land registration work in Russia. A plan has been developed with the Government to satisfy these conditions within the extended timeframe. Letters of invitation are being prepared for; (a) a procurement agent, and (b) consultant services for the Project Development Unit and technical specialists. These are expected to be issued by November. Work on preparation of bidding documents for the procurement of goods is also well underway.

Ln. 3757-RUS Agricultural Reform Implementation Support (ARIS) Project: US\$240 Million: Loan of June 22, 1994; Effective Date: Not Yet Effective; Closing Date: June 30, 2000; Executing Agency: Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MOAF). This is the first loan in support of agricultural reform in Russia. The main objective is to improve the efficiency of the agricultural sector based on market principles by creating and strengthening market infrastructure for fruits and vegetables, farmer information and advisory services and private seed industry for hybrid corn and sunflower. The loan is expected to become effective by November 21, 1994. However, project implementation has begun. The Project Development Unit (PDU), which will be responsible for project implementation, has been established and staffed. The Project Launch Workshop is planned for November 1994. The Government has initiated the process for hiring international consulting firm to assist in project implementation. PDU staff is currently being trained in procurement procedures, with a particular focus on World Bank Procurement Guidelines. Despite lack of experience, training and appropriate incentives for the PDU staff, project implementation is making progress.

Ln. 36230 to Ln 36233 Oil Rehabilitation Loan: US\$610 Million: Loan of August 12, 1993; Effective Date: November 15, 1993; Closing Date: December 31, 1995; Executing Agencies: Ministry of Fuel and Power; Varyeganneftegas Producing Association (VNG); Purneftegas Producing Association (PNG); Kogalymneftegas Producing Association (KNG). Satisfactory progress was achieved under the project including progress towards the establishment of a satisfactory legal/fiscal and regulatory environment to attract private capital and create a competitive domestic industry. The initial year of project implementation was not fully satisfactory due