Chilean pine-tree forests are on a growing cycle. Current harvesting of wood is from forest planted during the early 60's. However, most of the 1.4 million Has. will mature within the next 10-15 years.

To meet this increase in production the Chilean Timber Industrial Association (CORMA) estimates that current processing facilities will have to double in size and capacity in order to exploit the full potential of the plantations. These new investments are estimated in 3 billion US dollars by the Forestry Institute (INFOR).

During the last years , several investments have been developed in this sector by investors from New Zealand, Holland, US, Spain and most recently Japan with total investments of US$ 600 M.

Tables Nr. 36 to 38 show estimated investments in the forestry industry between 1990 and 1992 as well as those developed since 1987. It is important to mention that most of the new investments are oriented to value added through the manufacturing process to pulp and wood. (Paper, boards, furniture).

Imports by the Cellulose and Paper Industry

The paper and cellulose industry imported US$ 37.5 M in machinery and equipment for its plants. This is an increase of 312% over 1986 imports. Annual average growth on imports has been 72% since 1986. Accumulated imports since '86 are US$ 71 M. These amounts include only equipment and machinery which are specific to the industry.

Imports by the Wood and Furniture Industry

Imports of equipment and machinery by this fast growing industry were US$ 14.6 M. Compared to 1986, imports increased by 248% in 1989. Accumulated imports for the mentioned period were US$ 41.2.

Main Industrial Forestry Sectors

A.-Cellulose and Paper:

This sector constitutes 53% of the forestry industry production value and 45% of exports. As mentioned before, this sector is attracting mayor investments which will double its production capacity in the next years.