7 Measures for Globalization

1. International Policies

1.1 Major International Conferences

The theme of e-commerce was discussed at various international conferences held during fiscal 1999, as it has become an issue of great importance with the growing popularity of the Internet. Delegates engaged in lively discussion of the topic at both the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting in September 1999 and the OECD Paris Forum on E-Commerce in October.

1.2 Kyushu-Okinawa Summit

Info-communications has been regularly mentioned at summit conferences of the leaders of the major nations since the Naples Summit of 1994, evidence that national leaders are increasingly recognizing the significance of this field. A Kyushu-Okinawa Summit is scheduled for July 2000, with the "IT revolution" likely to be taken up as one of the major topic of discussion.

1.3 Trends in International Satellite Communications

In response to intensifying competition in international satellite communications in recent years, INTELSAT, at its 22nd Assembly of Parties in March 1998, and INMARSAT, at its 12th Assembly in April 1998, decided to reform their organizational structures. At its 24th Assembly of Parties in October 1999, INTELSAT created a working subcommittee to investigate how the organization should reform its structure, including the possibility of privatization.

2. International Financial Assistance

During fiscal 1999, four yen loans and one grant aid were provided in the info-communications field. In January 2000 when the area for the special yen loans to be granted to was expanded, the category of info-communications was added to the list, a change that is expected to play a major role in developing the info-communications infrastructure of developing nations.

3. Work with International Standards Organizations

The Telecommunication Standardization Sector of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU-T) is studying ways to shorten the time required to develop recommendations. At its fifth meeting, in October 1999, the Telecommunications Standardization Advisory Group decided to shorten its existing recommendation approval process to about three months for technical matters only (the substitute approval procedures); this change is to be brought to the World Telecommunication Standardization Conference in September 2000 for approval.