## INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

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The International Monetary Fund has approved a stand-by arrangement for the Government of Argentina. The arrangement came into effect after the Fund determined that satisfactory arrangements have been made for financing Argentina's balance of payments in 1987, and that corrective policy actions are being taken. Under the arrangement, purchases are authorized up to the equivalent of SDR 1,113 million, the amount of Argentina's quota, in the period until September 30, 1988. Argentina's outstanding financial obligations to the Fund resulting from past operations and transactions currently total the equivalent of SDR 2,447.4 million.

The Government's revised economic program, which the current stand-by arrangement supports, aims at reducing the rate of inflation and strengthening the balance of payments. To this end, the fiscal deficit will be lowered substantially in the second half from the level recorded in the first six months of 1987, and at the same time credit policy will be based on a projected growth of money that is below the rate of inflation. The authorities will administer the system of price controls flexibly, and exchange rate policy will be kept under review to ensure an adequate degree of competitiveness and the attainment of the program's balance of payments objectives.

In 1988, the Government will continue the process of strengthening public sector finances projected for the second half of this year, which it regards as a necessary condition for laying the basis for sustainable growth in an environment of low inflation. Moreover, the Government will continue implementing its program of structural reforms, including improving the efficiency of the public enterprises and the financial system, as well as reducing trade and payments restrictions.