Article 7
POSSIBILITY OF DECLINING A REQUEST

1. The Requested Party shall not be required to obtain or provide information that if the information requested was within the territorial jurisdiction of the Requesting Party the competent authority of the Requesting Party would not be able to obtain under the laws or in the normal course of administrative practices of the Requesting Party.

2. The competent authority of the Requested Party may decline to assist:

(a) where the request of the Requesting Party is not made in conformity with this Agreement;

(b) where the Requesting Party has not pursued all means available within its territorial jurisdiction to obtain the information requested, except where recourse to such means would give rise to disproportionate difficulties; and

(c) where the disclosure of the information requested would be contrary to public policy (ordre public) of the Requested Party.

3. This Agreement shall not impose on a Contracting Party the obligation to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process. Such information includes information relating to communications between advocates, attorneys, solicitors or other admitted legal representatives in their role as such and their clients to the extent that the communications are protected from disclosure under the laws of each Contracting Party. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentences, information of the type referred to in paragraph 4 of Article 5 shall not be treated as such a secret or trade process merely because it meets the criteria in that paragraph.

4. A request for information shall not be refused on the ground that the tax claim giving rise to the request is disputed.

5. The Requested Party may decline a request for information if the information is requested by the Requesting Party to administer or enforce any provision of the tax laws of the Requesting Party, or any requirement connected therewith, which discriminates against a national of the Requested Party as compared with a national of the Requesting Party in the same circumstances.

Article 8
CONFIDENTIALITY

1. All information provided and received by the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties under this Agreement shall be kept confidential.

2. The information referred to in paragraph 1 shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) in the Contracting Parties concerned with the purposes referred to in Article 2, and used by such persons or authorities only for such purposes, including the determination of any appeal. For these purposes, the information may be disclosed in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions.

3. The information referred to in paragraph 1 may not be used for any purpose other than for the purposes referred to in Article 2 without the express written consent of the competent authority of the Requested Party.

4. The information referred to in paragraph 1 may not be disclosed to persons or authorities in non-Contracting Parties.

Article 9
COSTS

Incidence of costs incurred in providing assistance shall be agreed by the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties.

Chapter 3
AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION

Article 10
PERSONS COVERED

This Chapter shall apply to individuals who are residents of one or both of the Contracting Parties.

Article 11
TAXES COVERED

1. This Chapter shall apply to the following taxes:

(a) in the case of Japan:

(i) the income tax; and