

Volume III

After the Gold Standard, 1931-1999

1999 September 26

The Central Bank's Gold Agreement. In the fall of 1999, the major gold-holding central banks agreed to limit their gold sales over the period of 1999-2004. In addition, the signatories listed below (who control approximately 50% of official sector gold), the governments of the United States (25% of official sector gold) and Japan (3%) indicated that they would follow the guidelines of the agreement. Prior to the Agreement, Switzerland had announced it would sell 1300 tonnes, while the United Kingdom planned to sell 365 tonnes. Austria, the Netherlands, and Belgium had sales plans of undeclared amounts.

Oesterreichische Nationalbank
Banque Nationale de Belgique
Suomen Pankki
Banca d'Italia
Banque centrale du Luxembourg
De Nederlandsche Bank
Banque de France
Deutsche Bundesbank
Central Bank of Ireland
Banco do Portugal
Banco de España
Sveriges Riksbank
Schweizerische Nationalbank
Bank of England
European Central Bank

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Press Communique - 26 September 1999

Statement on Gold

In the interest of clarifying their intentions with respect to their gold holdings, the above institutions make the following statement:

1. Gold will remain an important element of global monetary reserves.
2. The above institutions will not enter the market as sellers, with the exception of already decided sales.
3. The gold sales already decided will be achieved through a concerted programme of sales over the next five years. Annual sales will not exceed approximately 400 tonnes and total sales over this period will not exceed 2,000 tonnes.
4. The signatories to this agreement have agreed not to expand their gold leaseholdings and their use of gold futures and options over this period.
5. This agreement will be reviewed after five years.
