The following proposal is submitted by the Delegation of the United States regarding a GATT Work Programme on Trade in High Technology Goods. This proposal is submitted pursuant to the Chairman’s statement at the final Plenary Session of the GATT Ministerial on 29 November 1982.

The Council agrees:

A. To examine barriers and distortions affecting international trade in high technology goods, including tariffs, non-tariff measures, and other factors affecting such trade with a view toward recommending possible solutions to such problems that may be identified;

B. That the secretariat, in order to facilitate the examination of the barriers and distortions that broadly affect trade in high technology goods, compile and analyze information in five or six specific sectors initially. These sectors could include, but need not necessarily be limited to computers, semi-conductors, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, advanced machine tools (robotics), and advanced chemicals;

C. That a working party, composed of interested contracting parties, should be established by the Council to review the results of the secretariat’s study with a view toward identifying trade-distorting barriers affecting high technology industries as a whole; and

D. That the working party should present its finding and recommendations to the GATT Council and to the contracting parties for consideration no later than the 1983 Session.