AGRICULTURAL WORK PROGRAMME: CHECK-LIST OF ITEMS ON WHICH CLARIFICATION IS NEEDED

At its meeting of 4-7 May 1982, the Consultative Group of Eighteen agreed that between then and the next meeting of the Group in July:

"the secretariat would work on the elaboration of a draft work programme on agriculture in consultation with interested delegations."

In pursuance of the above, the secretariat has held consultations on the basis of a draft agricultural work programme with interested GATT delegations. While these consultations revealed the existence of a growing consensus on the major features of such a work programme there still appears to be a need for further clarifications.

The following check-list has been established in order to contribute to this process of clarification and in the hope of enlarging the consensus.
CHECK-LIST OF ITEMS ON WHICH CLARIFICATION IS NEEDED

Notification of farm legislation

review of the effects on trade of national agricultural policies

examination of the relationship between national policies and GATT obligations

review of measures affecting market access of, and competition in, agricultural products

review of waivers under Article XXV:5 and other exceptions contained in Protocols of Accession or Provisional Application

review, and if necessary, strengthening of the operation of the Resolutions on the disposal of surpluses and the liquidation of strategic stocks, adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES on 4 March 1955

examination of measures affecting market access of, and competition in, agricultural products in light of the rights and obligations under the General Agreement

possibilities for contracting parties to make further progress in fulfilling their obligations and attaining the objectives of the General Agreement

development of practical negotiating possibilities

possibilities for arriving at a common understanding of the scope of the provisions of the Agreement

possibilities for arriving at mutually acceptable solutions on the problems or measures affecting agricultural trade which are either not expressly provided for or not covered adequately in the General Agreement

possibility of negotiating and implementing a standstill on export subsidies

possibility of establishing rules or disciplines on credit sales and non-commercial transactions

establishment of an agriculture committee