The following joint communication was received today by Mr. Olivier Long, Director-General of GATT, from the delegations in Geneva of the European Community and the United States. It is being transmitted to the contracting parties.

Declaration

Within the framework of their negotiations, the United States and the European Community have agreed to communicate the following declaration to the Director-General of the GATT for transmittal to the contracting parties. Other contracting parties are invited to associate themselves with the declaration to the extent and at the moment they would deem appropriate.

The United States and the Community recognize the need for proceeding with a comprehensive review of international economic relations with a view to negotiating improvements in the light of structural changes which have taken place in recent years. The review shall cover inter alia all elements of trade, including measures which impede or distort agricultural, raw material and industrial trade. Special attention shall be given to the problems of developing countries.

The United States and the Community undertake to initiate and actively support multilateral and comprehensive negotiations in the framework of GATT beginning in 1973 (subject to such internal authorization as may be required) with a view to the expansion and the ever greater liberalization of world trade and improvement in the standard of living of the people of the world, aims which can be achieved inter alia through the progressive dismantling of obstacles to trade and the improvement of the international framework for the conduct of world trade. The Community states that in appropriate cases the conclusion of international commodity agreements are also one of the means to achieve these aims. The United States states that such agreements do not offer a useful approach to the achievement of these aims.
The negotiations shall be conducted on the basis of mutual advantage and mutual commitment with overall reciprocity, and shall cover agricultural as well as industrial trade. The negotiations should involve active participation of as many countries as possible.

The United States and the Community agree to initiate and support in 1972 an analysis and evaluation in the GATT of alternative techniques and modalities for multilateral negotiation of long term problems affecting all elements of world trade.

The United States and the Community will seek to utilize every opportunity in the GATT for the settlement of particular trade problems, the removal of which would lessen current frictions, and will strive for further progress with respect to those matters now being discussed in the GATT Committee on Trade in Industrial Products and the GATT Agricultural Committee. They agree that progress in GATT in solving specific problems in 1972 could facilitate the way in the GATT for a new major initiative for dealing with longer term trade problems.