1. The Government of the United States of America hereby notifies the contracting parties of its intention to enter into negotiations under Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in order to replace the present nomenclature of Schedule XX -- United States of America with nomenclature conforming to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (the Harmonized System).

2. In accordance with the procedures agreed upon in the Council's decision of 12 July 1983 (L/5470/Rev.1) on GATT concessions under the Harmonized System, and the relevant discussions in the Tariff Concessions Committee, the United States submits the following documents for the conduct of these negotiations:

   U.S. HS Document 1
   The Existing Schedule XX -- United States of America

   U.S. HS Document 2
   The Proposed Schedule XX -- United States of America

   U.S. HS Document 3
   Cross-Reference from the Existing Schedule XX to the Proposed Harmonized System Schedule XX

   U.S. HS Document 4
   Cross-Reference from the Proposed Harmonized System Schedule XX to the Existing Schedule XX

   Explanatory Notes for U.S. HS Documents 1-4

   U.S. Special HS Document 1
   United States Imports in 1981-1983 from Principal and Substantial Suppliers and Other Countries Having GATT Initial Negotiating Rights

In addition to the above documents, the United States is prepared to provide each contracting party, on a bilateral basis, with a special tabulation showing the relationship of U.S. imports and duties collected for the particular contracting party under the existing U.S. nomenclature and the proposed Harmonized System schedule.
3. In translating Schedule XX from the present U.S. tariff nomenclature to the Harmonized System, the United States goal has been to carry forward existing duties unchanged to the maximum possible extent consistent with the exigencies of sound nomenclature and practical customs administration considerations. By necessity, some rate changes are unavoidable in a shift between nomenclatures as radically different as the present Tariff Schedules of the United States and the Harmonized System. Products which will undergo incidental changes in rates of duty as a result of the transformation from the existing Tariff Schedules of the United States to the nomenclature of the Harmonized System are identified in U.S. HS documents 3 and 4 by an asterisk(*) on the rate of duty.

4. The Government of the United States plans to implement the Harmonized System tariff on January 1, 1988. In view of the time required to carry out the necessary domestic procedures, the Government of the United States desires to complete these Article XXVIII negotiations by the close of 1986.

5. To that end, and in accordance with the relevant procedures of Article XXVIII, any contracting party which considers that it has a right of negotiation or consultation in the U.S. schedule must address a communication to that effect, in writing and within 90 days of the issuance of this notification, to the Geneva office of the U.S. Trade Representative, with a copy thereof to the GATT Secretariat. In order to expedite the negotiations or consultations, contracting parties should indicate the products (and tariff item numbers) on which negotiations or consultations are requested.