The Group on Dairy Products, noting the views of most members that the collection of information would be useful in the evaluation of offers when made, unanimously invites members of the Group and other countries significant in world production of and/or trade in dairy products to assemble and examine the following information. This information should relate to liquid milk, butter, preserved milk, principal cheeses and the principal other dairy products. Where information relates to past performance, it should cover if possible a period of five years or at least the last three seasons. This information should be rendered in United States cents and kilogrammes, or United States dollars and metric tons.

I. Existing dairy policies:

(i) (a) the level of the guaranteed or supported price to producers. A brief explanatory note may be necessary on the method of guaranteed payments to producers;

(b) the average level of returns to producers; also the average return of total milk production;

(c) the system of arriving at returns to producers, i.e. pooling total receipts from all milk products, pooling of domestic and export returns from butter, etc.;

(d) the system of direct price supports and the level of producer subsidies;

(e) other forms of aid;
(ii) statement on actual levels of butterfat content of butter and milk sold for liquid consumption, any regulations governing or influencing these levels, and any significant changes in the past five years;

(iii) (a) retail and wholesale prices of milk sold for liquid consumption, butter, cheese, and other milk products; including major seasonal variations;

(b) retail and wholesale prices of margarine;

(iv) existing consumer subsidies, with mention of any recent changes;

(v) use of dairy products in domestic and foreign welfare schemes;

(vi) other measures to stimulate domestic consumption;

(vii) measures of protection at the frontier.

II. An examination of each country's production, consumption, imports, exports and year-end stocks of dairy products, cow numbers and yield per cow, since 1954/55. Members of the Group will submit information on national production and consumption trends over the next five years assuming the continuation of existing national policies.

III. International prices and price stabilization in international markets;

(i) information on the levels of international prices, prevailing during the last five seasons, in the various markets for the different dairy products (f.o.b., c.i.f., free-at-frontier prices). Information on monthly prices, their evolution, and particularly their main seasonal variations;

(ii) exchange of data on the conditions of price formation in international markets; price relationships between the various dairy products; comments on the economic or legal conditions of the operation of prices applicable to international trade;
(iii) concrete data on export subsidies and export aids; global values and quantities, and value per unit;

(iv) stock management policies in relation to export practices.

IV. Exchange of technical information on the various possibilities for using dairy surpluses as international food aid, and particularly ways of disposing of products which include the fat content of milk.