GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

Agriculture Committee
Working Group 1

WORKING GROUP 1 - MEASURES WHICH AFFECT EXPORTS

Main Points Raised in Discussion on 8 April 1970

Additional discussion on notification procedures

1. The point was raised on the relationship between notifications of measures under the procedures of Article XVI and possible new notifications under those in respect of the List of Practices. It was noted that Article XVI procedures covered measures which affected both imports and exports, while the List of Practices related to measures which affected only exports. Notification requirements under Article XVI of subsidies affecting imports would remain unaffected by the proposed new procedure. On the other hand it was also noted that, as regards the export side, the List of Practices covered measures which had not so far been notified under Article XVI procedures.

2. The suggestion was made that governments should notify measures which they consider as export subsidies falling within the scope of Article XVI under the procedures of that Article, and notify all remaining measures included in the List of Practices under the procedures relating to the List. It was also suggested that for the sake of completeness, the notification under the List might in addition show which measures had been notified in order to fulfill Article XVI obligations.

3. Another suggestion was that all notifications should be made under the procedures relating to the List; since the List coverage was wider than that of Article XVI, the reporting requirements under Article XVI, would automatically be fulfilled.

4. A delegation drew attention to the fact that under the existing Article XVI procedures governments already notified measures which they did not necessarily consider to fall within the scope of that Article. This delegation therefore suggested that all measures covered by the List of Practices should be notified according to Article XVI procedures.
5. In this connexion, the suggestion was also made that the List of Practices might be incorporated into the notification procedures of Article XVI.

Discussion on consultation procedures

6. Some delegations considered that there was a need for a permanent body which would conduct consultations on a bilateral or a multilateral basis. Such consultations would take place at regular intervals, for instance annually, but provision would also be made for holding additional consultations at short notice when required. In this connexion these delegations pointed to the proposal put forward by the Canadian delegation and annexed to document COM.AG/11.

7. Several delegations supported the proposals set out in the last three paragraphs of the Draft Resolution contained in document COM.AG/W/41. These provisions concerned adequate opportunity afforded by each contracting party for bilateral consultation regarding representations made by another contracting party; consultations by the CONTRACTING PARTIES, at the request of a contracting party, with any contracting party or parties in respect of any matter for which it had not been possible to find a satisfactory solution bilaterally; and the establishment of a standing committee to ensure the adequacy of the relevant information and to conduct any multilateral consultations referred to above.

8. A delegation considered that before establishing any new consultative body or procedures, it was necessary to determine the objectives of the consultations and that existing procedures might provide an adequate framework for bilateral or multilateral consultation.

9. Several delegations said that experience had proved that existing procedures were inadequate to meet the objectives of the consultations under discussion.