1. The Drafting Group met from 11 to 17 January under the Chairmanship of Mr. P.T. Eastham (Canada).

2. The Drafting Group had before it a draft of a Proposed GATT Code of Conduct for Preventing Technical Barriers to Trade (Spec(71)143) prepared by Mr. G.T. Rogers (United Kingdom) in his personal capacity following informal consultations which the chairman had held with interested delegations. The Drafting Group expressed its thanks to Mr. Rogers for undertaking this task.

3. Some members of the Drafting Group noted the agreement reached in the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products that work on standards should be actively pursued to the stage of submission of ad referendum solutions to governments. These members said that the Drafting Group might therefore be expected to draw up a range of possible solutions for consideration, but agreed to work on the draft of a contractual code before the Group both for reasons of convenience and because the draft could serve as a basis for other types of approach, such as a voluntary code, a set of principles, etc.

4. The Drafting Group agreed that it should draw up a text that was technically feasible and convenient to read. Working on the basis of the draft before it, the Group drew up the annexed text for submission to Working Group 3. The fact that the text contains no square brackets or alternative versions does not imply that members of the Drafting Group necessarily agree with the particular way in which it deals with the various substantive issues or to the precise form of words it employs.

5. This note does not attempt to list all the points raised in the Drafting Group. Among the substantive points outstanding, the main points are:
(a) the question of whether the text should take the form of a binding code, of a voluntary code or of a set of principles, etc.;

(b) the wording of the obligations relating to the protective effect of standards in 1(a) of the operative provisions and elsewhere in the text;

(c) the wording of 11(j)(iii) and 11(g) of the operative provisions relating to the participation of adherents in multinational systems for assuring conformity to mandatory standards formulated by regional groups;

(d) the procedure by which the Committee for preventing Technical Obstacles to Trade, referred to in Part IV, should take decisions; and

(e) the content of Part V relating to enforcement.

6. The coverage of the text is not restricted to industrial products. The Drafting Group noted that the Agriculture Committee would wish to determine the applicability of the text to agricultural products.