1. Airgram GATT/AIR/910/Rev.1 contained the proposal that the Committee should inter alia explore the advantages and shortcomings inherent in each of the various approaches already put forward and that this exploration would bear on four broad techniques of approach, i.e. specific measures, instrumental measures, codes of good conduct, and a combination of the three techniques.

2. In order to enable this work to be carried out in as concrete a way as possible, a tentative list of elements that might usefully be considered in connexion with the various approaches is given below. The list is intended to serve as an illustrative guide for the convenience of delegations. It is not necessarily exhaustive and it is understood that further elements may need to be added in the course of the exploration. The order of listing of approaches and specific elements is not to be regarded as reflecting degrees of importance nor of the order in which they might be examined by the Committee.
A. Specific measures

(a) Export measures

(i) Limits to overall cost of export assistance:
- possible coverage: all products globally; if not, which product groups or which individual products;
- possible forms of expressing the limit: as absolute value; as percentage, e.g. of value of exports at domestic or world prices;
- possible reduction of such limits over time;
- commitments to be taken by countries operating two price systems.

(ii) Maximum cost per unit:
- possible application to individual selected products;
- other questions as above.

(iii) Minimum prices on international markets:
- selection of suitable products or product sectors;
- method of setting a minimum price: e.g. fixed at given level by negotiation, or in terms of prices charged by specified non-subsidizing exporter.

(iv) Other possible forms of harmonization of export measures.

(b) Import measures

(i) Customs duties:
- determine and explore product sectors where commitments would be meaningful.

(ii) Variable levies and other special charges:
- determine product sectors where commitments would be meaningful;
- explore possible technical forms which such commitments might take;
- explore possibilities of action by exporters likely to influence amount of levies charged by importing countries.

(iii) Quantitative restrictions:
- explore possible formulae and modalities (including if necessary a time element) for relaxation, elimination or replacement by other measures;
- explore concrete possibilities of adjustments in administrative practices.

(c) Production measures
- Explore which specific production measures might technically lend themselves to meaningful commitments, and the form that such commitments might take.
- Explore the technical possibilities of separating "production-neutral" farm income maintenance measures from production and price policy measures; and explore the technical feasibility and meaningfulness of negotiating techniques for the encouragement of production-neutral measures and the elimination of measures that unduly stimulate production.
- Examine possibility of allocating responsibility for the creation of surpluses.
- Supply management through stock maintenance measures: explore possible types of commitment and their suitability according to product.
- Other possible forms of harmonization of production measures.

B. Instrumental measures
(a) Self-sufficiency ratios
- Possible coverage: agricultural sector as a whole; selected groups of product sectors; individual product or product sectors;
- measurement: units, time period;
- type of obligations of importers and of exporters;
- types of action in case of non-observance;
- possible use as indicator rather than commitment.
(b) Support margins  
- Possible coverage;
- definition and measurement: in particular, selection of upper and lower benchmarks;
- type of obligation: freezing, reduction over time, etc.

(c) International stabilization arrangements  
- Possible coverage: selection of products or product groups;
- elements to be included in arrangement (including possibly some listed elsewhere in the present paper).

C. Codes of good conduct  
Determine areas of possible application of codes of good conduct governing:
- export measures (e.g. possibilities of making provisions of Article XVI more specific, or extending its paragraph 4 to cover primary products);
- non-tariff import measures (e.g. health and sanitary regulations);
- production measures.

Explore possible scope and content of such codes (e.g. common objectives, principles, guidelines, provision for notification and consultation).

In this connexion it is recalled that, at the appropriate time, the Committee will have to review the applicability to the agricultural sector of any solutions evolved in the Committee on Trade in Industrial Products in respect of measures of general application. In particular, it will have to examine any results which emerge from the Groups on Licensing and on Standards and to consider whether modifications are necessary to make these results applicable to the agricultural sector (L/3472, Annex IV, paragraph 16 and L/3600, paragraph 6).

D. Combination of the three techniques  
It might well become apparent that a viable and practical solution to the problems in the agricultural sector as a whole or in certain sub-sectors might reside in a combination of various elements selected from the three broad techniques.

To give a hypothetical and purely illustrative example: one might envisage that, while recognizing as a long-term objective the replacement of production-stimulating support measures by production neutral measures, a practical and acceptable solution for the shorter term might possibly consist of stock management obligations accepted multilaterally, triggered by a surplus situation (determined by the relation of current world prices to an agreed benchmark), with the size of individual obligations related to changes in self-sufficiency ratios (which would serve as a yardstick and not a commitment).