First of all we congratulate the secretariat on its effort in compiling the responses to the questionnaire on available data and its survey of research and ideas with respect to the Feasibility Study. We have found the information as well as its form of presentation to be very useful as an extension of our knowledge of the availability of data pertinent to trade negotiations and of further work which can and should be done in this area.

The responses reveal that data pertinent to preparations for trade negotiations are available for most countries on a sufficiently detailed basis and number of years to make an extension of the present Tariff Study data base feasible and, we believe, very desirable and useful. While time has not permitted sufficient consideration, it appears clear that further useful work can and should be done along some of the lines suggested in Spec(72)40, to which our present proposal is related, including, for example, the suggestions under the section "data requirements and availability".

We believe that the GATT has performed a very valuable function in providing an agreed bank of trade and tariff data and the development of a time series as more recent information becomes available. We have come a long way, for this type of information was never available on a comparable basis prior to previous negotiations, nor is it available at present from any other source. We also believe that the GATT, as the institution responsible for the conduct of trade negotiations, and with access to data and technical expertise which may not be available to individual Member governments, should continue to perform the important service of providing better information and tools for use by governments in preparing for negotiations. In particular, we believe these tools are necessary for the work by the CTIP in its examination of various techniques and modalities. Accordingly we have prepared a proposal for an extension of the present Tariff Study data base with available factual information. Although we in no way wish to diminish the importance we attach to this proposal, it is our view that initial priority in the Work Program be given to the statistical presentations on industrial techniques and modalities for use by the CTIP and contracting parties in their examination.
In the first instance, we believe that the present Tariff Study data base should be expanded through the creation of a time series for each of the years 1964-70 of available import, export, tariff, production, and apparent consumption data for each country in the Tariff Study. Value data would be included in each case as well as volumes in the case of imports. Available data for each individual country would be presented on a four-, three-, and two-digit SITC basis as well as aggregated by product sectors where possible. Data would be shown on the more aggregated level if not available on a four-digit basis. The United States would supply computer tapes containing imports and exports, value and quantity, for each of these years on a four-digit basis. Imports and exports of each Tariff Study country vis-à-vis each other would also be included. Duty rates actually in effect would be concorded with each year's imports utilizing the pre- and post-Kennedy Round four-digit BTN averages from data available in the Tariff Study. Where detailed production and consumption data are not available, that available during census years or for certain industries covered in input/output tables would be used, with estimates calculated for intervening years from production indexes or value added, and consumption derived.

We also propose that relatively simple computer calculations be made from this factual information for each year, level of aggregation, by country. These calculations would consist of the annual rates of change in imports, exports, production and consumption, and the per cent changes in average tariff levels during the 1964-1970 period. In addition, the ratios of imports to apparent consumption and of total production to production for domestic consumption would be calculated. These ratios would indicate the market position or share of consumption supplied by foreign production in the first case; the degree of export orientation in the second, and their changes over time. There are three points in particular which I would like to stress with respect to this proposal.

1. There necessarily will be gaps in the series of production and consumption data due to the unavailability of data or to concordance problems. We believe, however, that sufficient actual data or reasonable approximations can be incorporated to enable useful analytical work. Lack of precision in some cases and incompleteness in others should not play a role of preventing our doing what we can with available data any more than it did in the Tariff Study.

2. We are asking governments to supply published or otherwise available production and consumption data, or that which can be easily compiled. In some cases the secretariat may also be able to utilize data published by other sources such as the OECD. In other words, we do not expect governments or the secretariat to undertake the onerous task of collecting or compiling data which does not presently exist. We would hope, however, that governments would give the secretariat their full co-operation and technical advice with respect to concording the data.
3. The proposal is directly related to the request by the CTIP for information to facilitate an assessment of the implications of various techniques and modalities. Country profiles of domestic production and consumption related to trade flows and tariff levels would provide better knowledge of and insights into countries' industrial structure and trade and tariff patterns, and their change over time. In particular they would provide information with respect to market positions of each country in various product groupings.

4. Most importantly, the proposal consists of the presentation of factual information in a useful and objective form. It does not involve an evaluation or interpretation of the results or the drawing of conclusions within the GATT which might be prejudicial to any particular country's negotiating interests. The intent is to provide as adequate data as possible for countries to use in their preparations for and for use in negotiations and as a basis for further work which individual governments or the GATT may wish to undertake.