At its meeting on 20 December 1976, Group "Agriculture" agreed that delegations having participated in consultations should endeavour, in advance of the next meeting, to send to the secretariat summary notes with respect to the consultations in which they had participated. The secretariat would assemble and distribute the summaries in order to facilitate a decision concerning the further work of the Group.

In accordance with this procedure, Australia has sent the secretariat the following note.

Report by Australia on Consultations held under the Provisions of MTN/AG/4

Against the background to its position on the agricultural consultation procedures as set out by the Australian Delegation in its statements at meetings of the Trade Negotiations Committee and Group "Agriculture" (as circulated in documents MTN/W/25 and MTN/AG/W/14), Australia has consulted with a number of delegations in accordance with the procedures adopted by Group "Agriculture" on 16 December 1975.

The Australian Delegation considers that whilst in general the consultations proved useful in clarifying factual information and in facilitating a better understanding of participants' interests and concerns, they highlighted the need for the early commencement of a multilateral discussion of agricultural issues.

Consultations between Australia and Austria

Consultations were held on 1 April 1977 between Australia and Austria on the basis of a notification by Australia circulated in document MTN/AG/W/11/Add.17. The discussions related principally to the system of discretionary licensing applicable to imports of apples and pears.
The Austrian Delegation raised the possibility of seeking consultations at a later stage concerning certain agricultural export products of interest to Austria.

Consultations between Australia and Brazil

Consultations were held on 7 July between Australia and Brazil on the basis of a notification by Australia circulated in MTN/AG/W/ll/Add.17 and a notification by Brazil circulated in MTN/AG/W/ll/Add.2/Suppl.2.

The two delegations exchanged views on their policies and import measures relating to the notified products and outlined their respective export interests.

Consultations between Australia and Canada

Consultations were held on 10 May 1977 between Australia and Canada on the basis of a notification by Australia circulated in MTN/AG/W/ll/Add.17. The consultations concentrated principally on the Canadian régime on sheepmeat, wines and spirits.

Consultations between Australia and the EEC

Consultations were held on 25-26 February 1977 and 3 June 1977 on the basis of a notification by Australia in regard to the European Economic Community and France circulated in MTN/AG/W/ll/Add.17 and a notification by the EEC in respect of Australia circulated in MTN/AG/W/ll/Add.5.

Australian notification

The Australian Delegation stated that the range of measures introduced and maintained by the EEC to protect and support its domestic agricultural production had had a major adverse impact on a wide range of Australian agricultural exports to the EEC and third markets.

In particular the Australian Delegation drew attention to:

(a) the wide-ranging implications for international trade of the variable levy system;

(b) the serious trade distorting effects of EEC agricultural export subsidies;

(c) the high level of tariffs on certain agricultural products compared with the average overall Community tariff level;
(d) the continued maintenance of restrictions by one member State inconsistent with the provisions of the GATT specifically relating to quantitative restrictions;

(e) the system of import licences and security deposits maintained on certain agricultural products.

The Community explained the function of certain mechanisms relating to the notified measures and drew attention to the way in which the measures were so applied as to reduce their restricting and distorting effects on international trade.

**EEC notification**

The Community explained that it was interested in expanding its exports to Australia of certain agricultural products, but was hampered from doing so because of the relatively high level of tariffs and the stringent application of quarantine regulations, and packaging and labelling measures.

During the course of the discussion on health and sanitary, packaging and labelling regulations, it was acknowledged that the appropriate way of approaching this subject in the Negotiations was through the discussions on the draft Standards Code.

**Consultations between Australia and Greece**

Consultations were held on 17 March 1977 on the basis of a notification by Australia circulated in MTN/AG/W/11/Add.17 and concentrated on the discretionary licensing system maintained on imports of sheepmeat.

**Consultations between Australia and India**

Consultations were held on 16 March 1977 on the basis of the notification by Australia circulated in MTN/AG/W/11/Add.17 and related to the tariff régime on wool and tallow.

**Consultations between Australia and Japan**

Consultations were held on 18 March 1977 between Australia and Japan on the basis of a notification by Australia circulated in MTN/AG/W/11/Add.17 and a notification by Japan circulated in MTN/AG/W/11/Add.16.
Australian notification

The Australian Delegation stated that imports of agricultural products into Japan were severely restricted by a range of measures designed to protect and support domestic interests. In particular the Australian Delegation drew attention to:

(a) quantitative import restrictions which are inconsistent with the provisions of the GATT specifically relating to quantitative restrictions;
(b) the activities of State trading bodies;
(c) relatively high tariffs.

The Japanese Delegation clarified certain factual information and explained the social and economic factors on which its agricultural support policies were based.

Japanese notification

The consultations were confined to a factual examination of Australian production and trade measures concerning liquid eggs and egg yolks.

Consultations between Australia and the Republic of Korea

Consultations were held on 14 July 1977 between Australia and the Republic of Korea on the basis of a notification by Australia circulated in MTN/AG/W/11/Add.17 and related to the import régime on wool.

Consultations between Australia and the Nordic Countries

Consultations were held on 31 March 1977 between Australia and the Nordic countries on the basis of a notification by Australia in respect of Finland, Norway and Sweden as circulated in MTN/AG/W/11/Add.17 and in respect of notifications by Norway and Finland circulated in MTN/AG/W/11/Add.20 and Suppl.1.

The two sides provided factual information and exchanged views on the social and economic background relating to the respective measures notified. The Australian Delegation referred in particular to the discretionary licensing in Finland and Norway which applied to a number of products of export interests to Australia and which in some cases was inconsistent with GATT provisions specifically relating to quantitative restrictions. The Nordic Delegations referred in particular to Australian tariffs and packaging requirements.
Consultations between Australia and Romania

Consultations were held on 17 March 1977 between Australia and Romania on the basis of a notification by Romania circulated in MTN/AG/W/11/Add.12.

Romania's concern related to the possible impact of Australian tariffs on Romania's exports of certain prepared fruits and vegetables. The Australian Delegation provided a breakdown of the particular rates applicable together with relevant import statistics.

Consultations between Australia and South Africa

Consultations were held on 15 March 1977 between Australia and South Africa on the basis of a notification by Australia circulated in MTN/AG/W/11/Add.17 and a notification by South Africa circulated in MTN/AG/W/11/Add.8.

The consultations enabled both Delegations to explain their policies and import measures relating to the notified products and to outline their respective export interests.

Consultations between Australia and Spain

Consultations were held on 28 March 1977 between Australia and Spain on the basis of a notification by Australia circulated in MTN/AG/W/11/Add.17 relating to the import régime on apples and pears.

Consultations between Australia and Switzerland

Consultations were held on 17 March 1977 between Australia and Switzerland on the basis of notifications by Australia circulated in MTN/AG/W/11/Add.17 and by Switzerland circulated in MTN/AG/W/11/Add.18/Suppl.1.

The two delegations exchanged views on their respective interests, policies and practices relating to the notified products. During the course of the discussion on health and sanitary packaging and labelling it was acknowledged that the appropriate way of approaching this subject in the negotiations was through the discussions on the draft Standards Code.

Consultations between Australia and Turkey

Consultations were held on 15 March between Australia and Turkey on the basis of a notification by Turkey circulated in MTN/AG/W/11/Add.7.
Turkey's notification related to the possible impact of Australian tariffs on a number of products of interest to Turkey. The Australian Delegation clarified the factual situation with respect to the level of the tariff and volume of imports and also explained the basis of Australia's tariff policy.

Consultations between Australia and the United States

Consultations were held on 14 March 1977 between Australia and the United States on the basis of a notification by Australia as set out in MTN/AG/W/11/Add.17. The exchange of views was largely confined to clarifying factual information. The two delegations had consulted earlier under procedures adopted by the Quantitative Restrictions Sub-Group on a range of products subject to quantitative import restriction in the United States.