PROPOSAL BY THE UNITED STATES

1. Under the auspices of the Group "Non-Tariff Measures" and its Sub-Groups, procedures have been established for notification, consultation and reporting of consultations on a wide range of non-tariff measures. These procedures exist in the Sub-Group "Customs Matters" (MTN/NTM/27), the Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions" (MTN/NTM/2) and, for non-tariff measures not being dealt with multilaterally, in the Group "Non-Tariff Measures" itself (MTN/NTM/26). These procedures afford participants opportunities to clarify the nature and extent of various non-tariff measures applied to international trade. We urge those countries that have not yet utilized these procedures to do so as soon as possible. Furthermore, a multilateral examination of issues in the areas of subsidies/countervailing duties, government procurement, standards, quantitative restrictions, and customs valuation has also taken place in the Sub-Groups. This work has been complemented by informal discussions among delegations.

2. The work of the past year has helped establish the basis for achieving meaningful progress in the liberalization and expansion of world trade. The time is now ripe to move to the negotiating phase. In the United States view, an agreed work programme should include both bilateral and multilateral aspects.

3. The United States accordingly proposes that industrial non-tariff measure request lists be tabled by 1 November 1977. The Sub-Groups should continue and, indeed, accelerate their efforts to develop multilateral solutions in their respective areas of work with the objective of having texts on the table by 15 December 1977 reflecting as much agreement as can be reached in each area by that date.

4. The intended purpose of the request list procedure is to help ensure that the negotiating interests of individual countries with respect to specific measures will be addressed by their trading partners during the Multilateral Trade Negotiations. A procedure of this kind may be particularly important with respect to measures within the scope of the Sub-Groups which may not lend themselves to a multilateral solution. We would hope, however, that delegations would exercise restraint in requesting measures clearly covered by the multilateral solutions.
5. An appropriate period would be provided to allow for analysis of requests and such further consultations as may be required to clarify the nature and extent of the requests. We propose that each participant submit its offers by 15 January 1978. This date should enable participants to take into account, in formulating their offers, the extent to which multilateral solutions adequately cover requests addressed to them.

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The foregoing proposal is similar to the United States proposal made in the Group "Agriculture". In addition, we look forward to early agreement on a tariff negotiating plan. In the United States view these procedures form an integrated approach to the negotiations, along with negotiations in the various TNC Groups and Sub-Groups on multilateral rules for issues such as subsidies and countervailing duties, standards, government procurement, customs valuation, safeguards, etc.