1. At its meeting of October/November 1975, the Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions" agreed that delegations 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 as exporting or importing countries. The Sub-Group also agreed that the secretariat would assemble and distribute these summaries for the further work of the Sub-Group (MTN/NTM/9, paragraph 9).

2. The following communication has been received from the delegation of Finland on behalf of the Nordic countries concerning consultations held with South Africa (Annex I), Spain (Annex II) and New Zealand (Annex III).

3. Delegations who have not yet submitted summary notes are invited to do so without delay.
ANNEX I

Summary Note on Consultations between the
Nordic Countries and South Africa

The Nordic countries (Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) and South Africa held on 29 October 1975 consultations on quantitative restrictions applied by South Africa, in accordance with the decision made by the Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions" in April 1975. The consultations were based on the Nordic notification No. 477 in the inventory of non-tariff measures.

The representative of South Africa explained the South African import régime and replied to questions posed by the representatives of the Nordic countries, also with regard to the import treatment of specific products. Restrictions on agricultural products were not discussed.

It was noted during the consultations that South Africa had liberalized its import régime during the past few years. The representative of the Nordic countries stated, however, that the South African import régime remained complicated, and that the restrictions were not in accordance with the provisions of the GATT, and should accordingly be abolished.

The representative of South Africa stated that a further liberalization would be forthcoming, when the general economic situation of South Africa permits it.
ANNEX II

Summary Note on Consultations between the Nordic Countries and Spain

The Nordic countries (Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) and Spain held on 1 December 1975 consultations on quantitative restrictions applied by Spain, in accordance with the decision made by the Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions" in April 1975. The consultations were based on the Nordic notification No. 478 in the inventory of non-tariff measures.

The representative of Spain explained the Spanish import régime and replied to questions posed by the representatives of the Nordic countries, also with regard to the import treatment of specific products. Restrictions on agricultural products were not discussed.

The representative of the Nordic countries regretted the fact that since 1974 Spain had considerably slowed down its process of liberalization of trade. He stated that the Spanish import restrictions were not in accordance with the provisions of the GATT and should accordingly be abolished.

The representative of Spain explained the deterioration of the Spanish balance of trade in 1974 to a deficit of $8,000 million, the balance-of-payments deficit amounting to $800 million during the same year. He expressed the view that the decision of the Balance-of-Payments Committee not to accept the invocation by Spain of Article XVIII of the GATT was unjustified.

The representative of the Nordic countries took note of the Spanish statement, but maintained his statement about the abolishment of the Spanish import restrictions in support of the conclusions reached by the Balance-of-Payments Committee.
In accordance with the decision made by the Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions" in April 1975 the Nordic countries (Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) and New Zealand held on 11 February 1976, consultations on quantitative restrictions applied by New Zealand. The consultations were based on the Nordic notification No. 454 in the inventory of non-tariff measures.

The representative of New Zealand explained the deteriorated balance-of-payments situation, which has led to a slowed process of liberalization of imports by New Zealand. The representative of the Nordic countries referred to the fact that New Zealand had disinvoked Article XII, and expressed the wish that the remaining import restrictions applied by New Zealand be brought into conformity with the GATT.

The representative of New Zealand will revert later to questions about the import treatment of specific products, posed by the representative of the Nordic countries. Without prejudice to the known positions of both parties agricultural products were not discussed.

The representative of the Nordic countries asked for information about the legal GATT justification of the new import deposit scheme adopted by New Zealand. The representative of New Zealand referred to the forthcoming discussion of this matter in the GATT Council.