The following statement has been received from the delegation of the United States. The copy of Title IV of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (Public Law 96-39) and of the U.S. Administration's Statement of Administrative Action, referred to in the second paragraph of the United States statement, will be issued separately as document TBT/1/Add.1/Suppl.1.

In accordance with Article 15:7 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade and the Note by the Secretariat in relation to Article 15:7 (TBT/W/1 of 20 February 1980), I have the honour to submit to the GATT secretariat a statement of the measures taken by the United States to ensure the implementation and administration of the Agreement in the United States.

The legal basis on which the Agreement is being implemented in the United States is Title IV of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (Public Law 96-39). I am forwarding to you for the information of the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade a copy of Title IV, as well as a copy of the U.S. Administration's Statement of Administrative Action, which sets forth a detailed plan by the U.S. Executive Branch for implementing Title IV.

No additional laws or regulations have been issued with respect to the Agreement at this time. However, the Departments of Commerce and Agriculture may issue, in the future, regulations regarding their responsibilities under Title IV of the Trade Agreements Act. In addition, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative may issue an executive order regarding federal agencies' standards-related activities. Naturally, I will promptly inform the Committee of these regulations and this order if, and when, they are issued.

Furthermore, I wish to draw the Committee's attention to the following in response to Paragraph 4 of TBT/W/1:
(A) 1) Notices of proposed U.S. Federal Government technical regulations, standards or rules of certification systems (Articles 2.5.1 and 7.3.1) are published in the Federal Register under the heading—Notices of Proposed Regulations. Texts of technical regulation and standards or rules of certification systems (Articles 2.7 and 7.5) are also published in the Federal Register under the heading—Final Rules and Regulations.

(A) 2) Notices of proposed state government technical regulations, standards or rules of certification systems, (Article 3.1 and 8.1) and texts of final standards or rules of certification systems (Articles 3.1 and 8.1) are typically published in state registers or state administrative codes. For example: California—Administrative Code New York -- Codes, Rules and Regulations of N.Y. State Texas -- Texas Register or Texas Administrative Code Pennsylvania -- Pennsylvania Bulletin Illinois -- Illinois Register Florida -- Florida Administrative Weekly Wisconsin -- Wisconsin Administrative Register

(A) 3) The vast majority of notices of U.S. non-governmental (Private sector) proposed technical regulations and standards (Article 4.1) appear in two publications:

Standards Action, published by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and Standardization News, published by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). Notifications of the publication of final texts of private sector standards (Article 4.1) also appear in these two journals. Final texts of standards are available from these organizations. At present, proposed changes in rules of U.S. non-governmental certification systems (Article 8.1) or texts of final rules of private certification systems (Article 8.1) are not published in any one particular source and release of information is dependent upon the specific certifying organization.

(B) 1) The federal government allows the public at least 60 days to comment on proposed regulations (Articles 2.5.4, 2.5.5, 2.6.3, 7.3.4 and 7.4.3).

2) State Governments typically provide for public comment periods of 10–30 days (Article 3.1). For example:

California -- Approximately 30 days (depends upon the issue)
New York -- 30 days  
Texas -- 30 days  
Pennsylvania -- approximately 30 days (Depends upon the issue)  
Illinois -- 14 days  
Florida -- 14 days  
Wisconsin -- 10 days before an automatic public hearing

3) The U. S. Private Sector National Standards Organization, ANSI, normally allows 60 days for comments on their proposed standards (Article 4.1).

(C) Inquiry point address is:
Standards Information Center  
Office of Engineering Standards  
National Bureau of Standards  
Washington, D.C. 20234  
The inquiry point is in the process of preparing for full operations.

(D) Address of agency with which to get in touch if consultations are to be requested under Article 14:
The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative  
Executive Office of the President  
1800 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20506

(E) Name and address of other agencies that have functions pursuant to the Agreement:
Office of Product Standards  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Science and Technology  
Room 3876  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Trade Negotiations Division  
Office of Trade Agreements Policy  
Room 3031  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Technical Office  
International Trade Policy  
Foreign Agricultural Service  
Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Finally, as you are aware, my government has already indicated to the Chairman of the Committee the names of two experts whom they would be willing to make available for panel work under the Agreement.