At the meeting of the Negotiating Group on Tariffs, held on 10 February 1987, it was recalled that at the present time, two separate factual bases relating to tariffs exist in the secretariat, i.e. the Tariff Study which contains tariff and trade data for twelve participants, and the Harmonized System Data Base which was established more recently in order to facilitate the negotiations under Article XXVIII in connection with the introduction of the Harmonized System; a total of five participants have supplied tariff and trade data to the Data Base. In addition, there is a certain amount of tariff information in printed form available in the secretariat, including the GATT schedules of most contracting parties.

At the meeting mentioned above and at the subsequent meeting of the Negotiating Group, held on 27 April 1987, several participants stressed that in order to facilitate the tariff negotiations, it would be desirable that more countries participate in the collection of tariff and trade data in computerized form.

At the April meeting, the secretariat was requested to prepare a note outlining the type of information which countries have to submit in order to participate in the Tariff Study and/or the Harmonized System Data Base. It was suggested that this note would be useful for participants in order to decide whether to adhere to one or both of the two data bases mentioned above and to pronounce themselves in this regard at the next meeting of the Negotiating Group, scheduled for the week beginning 29 June 1987.

It was also pointed out at the two meetings of the Negotiating Group that technical assistance would be provided upon request by the secretariat and by some delegations, to developing countries in preparing trade files and in supplying other relevant information.

The specific data to be provided for the Tariff Study and for the Harmonized System Data Base are set out in Annex 1 and Annex 2, respectively.
ANNEX 1

DATA TO BE PROVIDED FOR THE TARIFF STUDY

The Tariff Study files contain, for each of the twelve participants, information on national customs tariffs and trade flows, under each tariff item, by country of origin.

The customs tariff information recorded in the duty rate file is as follows:

- product description of the tariff item
- m.f.n. bound tariff rate
- m.f.n. statutory tariff rate
- m.f.n. effectively applied tariff rate
- tariff rate applicable under the Generalized System of Preferences
- tariff rate(s) applicable under other preferential arrangements.

The import statistics are recorded in the trade file for one year, for each tariff item and for each country of origin, as follows:

- value of imports
- volume of imports
- unit of quantity used to report the volume of imports
- codes identifying the type of tariff treatment to which imports are entitled (m.f.n., GSP, etc.).

The above Tariff Study files are established by the secretariat on the basis of computerized information provided by delegations. The type of information which is provided varies between delegations and depends on the computerized information which is readily available in capitals. Some delegations provide only import statistics, in value and quantity, by country of origin. Other delegations provide import statistics, m.f.n. statutory rates and product descriptions. For that reason, the time necessary for the secretariat to update the files for one country depends very much on the type of information which is submitted on tape.

The format used to submit the information on tape is not standard and import statistics and tariff data are received in the format used by national statistical offices, together with the tape specifications.
DATA TO BE PROVIDED FOR THE HS DATA BASE

The HS data base contains tariff and trade information in the current nomenclature and in the HS nomenclature for five import markets. The information submitted by delegations, which is described in detail in document TAR/W/47, can be summarized as follows:

1) Tariff information.

- Present consolidated schedule with all information reported in the loose-leaf schedule columns 1 through 7. Relevant information on unbound rates is also provided.

- Consolidated schedule in HS nomenclature in the same format as the present consolidated schedule.

2) Import statistics.

Import statistics in the detail of present consolidated schedule items, for three recent years in value and quantity, for individual countries of origin. In addition, the average values and quantities over the three-year period are also recorded.

3) A concordance table between present and HS nomenclatures.

The concordance table contains percentage trade allocations between each item in the current customs tariff and their corresponding items in the proposed HS customs tariff. This concordance is used to create a statistical file in the HS nomenclature. It is also used to obtain a correspondence between tariff rates in the present schedule and tariff rates in the proposed HS schedule.

Delegations submit the information on computer tapes, in a standard format which is reproduced in document TAR/W/47. The format of the files and the organisation of the data base was designed with a view to facilitating the conduct of Article XXVIII negotiations in connection with the introduction of the HS. In the context of a future data base integrating non-tariff measures and other trade related measures, the organisation of the information will have to be reviewed in order to answer future requirements.