The following communication has been received from the delegation of the United States with the request that it be circulated to members of the Negotiating Group on Agriculture.

Principles to Govern Trade in Agriculture

General

Government policies affecting the production, consumption, import and export of agricultural products should permit the market to determine the flow of international agricultural trade. Such policies should be subject to operationally effective GATT rules and disciplines.

Domestic Policies

Governments should eliminate the adverse effects of domestic agricultural policies on international trade. Policies should permit market forces to determine supply and demand for agricultural products. Support to farm income should be provided without government intervention in market prices or production decisions.

Market Access

Governments should eliminate policies that, directly or indirectly, result in a level of imports lower than would exist without those policies. The basic principles of most-favoured-nation treatment and national treatment for imports should be applied.

Export Assistance

Governments should eliminate policies that, directly or indirectly, result in a level of commercial exports higher than would exist without those policies.

Health Laws and Regulations

Laws and regulations necessary to protect the health and safety of food, plants, animals and the agricultural environment should be non-discriminatory. They should be applied to imported products in a manner which, as far as possible, conforms to internationally recognized standards and recognizes the equivalent effect of the laws and regulations in the supplying country.

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