

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/NTM/W/187

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Multilateral Trade Negotiations

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Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

Sub-Group "Customs Matters"

REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS UNDER THE PROCEDURES OF MTN/NTM/27

United States

1. At its meeting of 21 February 1977, the Sub-Group "Customs Matters" adopted procedures for consultations which are aimed to facilitate the work of the Sub-Group by providing a framework to find a solution to specific customs problems (MTN/NTM/27, paragraph 6 and Annex).
2. The following notification dated 5 September 1978 has been received from the United States.

Pursuant to the procedures adopted by the Sub-Group "Customs Matters" (MTN/NTM/27), the delegation of the United States wishes to notify its intention to hold bilateral and plurilateral consultations on the problem of commercial counterfeiting. At the 19 July 1978 Sub-Group meeting, the representative of the United States briefly described our concern with the specific customs procedures of seizure and forfeiture.

The customs aspects of the prevention of commercial counterfeiting are of concern to a large number of countries. It is a problem which potentially affects every legitimate manufacturer regardless of nationality. The United States delegation, therefore, believes it would be most appropriate to pursue this issue on a plurilateral basis and will in the light of the results of the above-noted consultations, request in due course the Sub-Group to review the results of the consultations with a view to determining the next step in this aspect of the negotiations, including the possibility of multilateral solutions to the problem.