On the basis of the above process, the following products and product groups were selected to be the subject of this report:

- Brads, nails, etc., iron or steel, one piece construction, round wire, over 1 inch long, over 0.065 inch in diameter (Schedule A 6940120);
- Bolts and bolts with their nuts, imported in the same shipment, of iron or steel (Schedule A 6940215);
- Nuts, of iron or steel (Schedule A 6940220);
- Screws, except cap screws, with shanks not over 0.24 inch diameter, iron or steel (Schedule A 6940235);
- Cap screws with shanks over 0.25 inch diameter, of iron or steel (Schedule A 6940240).

U.S. IMPORTS 1982-87

A breakdown of 1987 imports of selected hardware (fasteners) by country is presented in Appendix 4. Europe and Japan captured 42.1% of the U.S. import market of these products in 1987. Japan, alone, supplied 33.6% of these product imports. Imports of all of the above product groups have increased significantly from 1982 to 1987, while the market shares of Europe and Japan have dropped significantly (see Chart 1, overleaf). Japan dropped to 33.6% from 45.5%, and Europe dropped to 8.6% from 9.3%. Canada has also lost some market share, dropping to 15.2% from 17.3%. The first half of 1988 shows little change. Imports up to and including June 1988 were supplied in the following proportions: Canada 15.3%, Europe 10%, and Japan 32.1%. Developing countries have made the greatest gains in penetrating the U.S. market. The major countries are South Korea, China and Taiwan. These three countries averaged almost 30% annual growth in imports during the 1982-87 period. This trend seems to be continuing as these countries have captured 36.3% of the $516 million (U.S.) of imports into the United States during the first half of 1988. Trends for each of the product groups are illustrated in Appendix 5.