Whichever approach is used, access must be expanded on a global basis from a starting point of current levels, which should continue on access conditions which are either improved or no less favourable than apply at present. Where country specific access is involved, tariff quotas would permit its orderly phase-out.

14.   Where existing policies have had the effect of prohibiting or severely inhibiting imports of an agricultural product, the initial tariff rate (a) or tariff quota (b) should be set at a level that will allow, at a minimum, access equivalent to a specified level of domestic consumption or production.

Tariffs

15.   Where conversion of NTM's is not involved, existing tariffs, consistent with the objectives agreed in the MTR tariffs agreement, should be reduced on a formula basis so as to deal with tariff peaks to bring them into line with the average tariff rate for industrial products, and to achieve lower and more uniform rates. Through the application of such a formula approach, the target amount for tariff reductions agreed to in the MTR agreement should be met as a minimum. There could also be, via a request and offer process, specific negotiated reductions going beyond the levels to which a formula approach would otherwise bring them, including the prospect of total tariff elimination in particular cases. The new rates resulting from either formula or more significant reductions would be phased-in over an appropriate period of years and would be consolidated within each participant's GATT Tariff Schedule. The base rates for the negotiations would be those agreed for tariffs in the MTR agreement.

(b)   Strengthened Rules/Disciplines

16.   GATT rules and disciplines necessary to remove restrictions to the free flow of trade in agricultural products, including:

(a)   a prohibition on the introduction or continued use of all measures not explicitly provided for in the GATT, including non-tariff barriers and other measures such as variable import levies and minimum import prices;