Pursuant to the decision taken by the Council at its meeting on 13 March 1984 (C/M/176), and following consultation with interested delegations, the Chairman of the Council has requested the secretariat to circulate to contracting parties the attached communication concerning the chairmanship of and terms of reference for the Working Party.

Chairman: Mr. M. Cartland (United Kingdom - Hong Kong)

Terms of reference:

"To examine, in accordance with the Decision on Problems of Trade in Certain Natural Resource Products adopted at the Ministerial meeting of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in 1982 (BISD 29S/20), problems falling under the competence of the General Agreement relating to tariffs, non-tariff measures, and other factors affecting trade in the following natural resource products including in their semi-processed and processed forms, with a view to recommending possible solutions:

a) Non-ferrous metals and minerals
b) Forestry products
c) Fish and fisheries products

The Working Party shall conduct its examination on the basis of background documents prepared by the secretariat. Other relevant documentation, including any information provided by delegations, may also be considered.

The Working Party shall submit a separate report to the Council on each of the three areas mentioned above. Each report will be submitted to the Council when it is concluded, independently from progress in the other areas. A progress report will be submitted to the 40th Session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES in November 1984.

Work in each area will progress in accordance with its own time-frame, and not be linked to progress in the other areas".

The Working Party will be open to all interested contracting parties.