TRADE POLICY REVIEW MECHANISM

Conduct of Reviews

Communication from the Chairman

1. In pursuance of the CONTRACTING PARTIES' Decision of 12 April 1989 concerning the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (L/6490) and following the Decisions of the Council of 19 July 1989 concerning the Outline Format for Country Reports (C/W/602) and the Programme of Reviews (C/W/603), I wish to confirm that three reviews will be held in December 1989.

2. It is proposed to schedule these reviews for 11-14 December 1989 and to hold them in the following order: (i) Australia, (ii) Morocco, (iii) the United States.

3. In the light of the objectives set out in the Decision of the CONTRACTING PARTIES (L/6490) and pursuant to paragraph D(ii) of that Decision, it is also proposed that the discussion would cover the following broad headings:

   (i) appreciation of the full range of the contracting party's trade policies and practices;

   (ii) relevant background: wider economic and developmental needs and external environment;

   (iii) impact of the contracting party's trade policies and practices on the functioning of the multilateral trading system; and

   (iv) general comments by way of assessment and evaluation.

4. To facilitate the discussions, the contracting parties wishing to do so could give advance notice in writing of the points they wish to be raised at the review session so that the contracting party under review is in a better position to prepare its replies. It is understood that this would not limit in any way the scope of discussions at the Council session.

5. The point D(iii) of the Decision (L/6490) also envisages the possibility of having discussants introducing the discussions in the review body. In response to this, I intend to consult with each of the contracting parties under review in order to work out appropriate arrangements for each review.

6. According to the Decision (L/6490), the Council will base its work during the review session on (i) a report by the contracting party under review, and (ii) a report drawn up by the Secretariat. It is anticipated that these two documents will be distributed to the contracting parties four weeks before the scheduled review sessions.