Consultative Group of Eighteen
Sixteenth Meeting
14-16 October 1981

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. It is suggested that at its sixteenth meeting the Consultative Group of Eighteen should address itself to the following:

1. The current economic situation and its implications for trade policies.
2. Market situation and recent policy measures in the agricultural sector.
3. Agriculture in the GATT.
4. Proposed ministerial meeting.
5. Other business.

Item 1 - The current economic situation and its implications for trade policies

2. The secretariat has circulated the first, general, chapter of its annual report International Trade 1980/81 (GATT/1295), which may serve as background for the meeting generally and as a basis for the discussion under this agenda item.

Item 2 - Market situation and recent policy measures in the agricultural sector

3. Under this item the Group may wish to consider recent developments in agricultural trade policy and review the market situation of major commodities. As a basis for discussion the secretariat is circulating three documents:

A revised and updated analysis of the current economic situation in agriculture (CG.18/W/55/Rev.1); and

A note on recent policy measures in the agricultural sector (CG.18/W/57);

A note on discussions on agricultural trade in other fora (CG.18/W/58).

Item 3 - Agriculture in the GATT

4. It is proposed that under this item the Group should consider the way the rules of the General Agreement and of the MTN codes apply to
trade in agriculture. For this purpose the secretariat has prepared an analysis of GATT and the codes from the viewpoint of agricultural trade, which is circulated as CG.18/W/59.

**Item 4 - Proposed ministerial meeting**

5. At its June meeting the Group reached broad agreement that it would be appropriate for the CONTRACTING PARTIES to envisage convening a meeting at ministerial level during 1982. The Group also agreed to continue its discussion of this proposal at its October meeting in order to facilitate the task of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. Following informal consultations the secretariat has prepared two papers in the hope that they will assist the Group in its consideration of the procedural and other issues which may need to be addressed by the CONTRACTING PARTIES. These papers, on procedural arrangements and background issues, are circulated as CG.18/W/60 and CG.18/W/61.