SUBJECT: GROUP "TARIFFS"

1. As agreed by the Trade Negotiations Committee on 13 February 1975, an initial meeting of the Group "Tariiffs" will be convened at 10 a.m. on 18 March 1975. The meeting will be held in the Council Room of the New Building of the International Labour Office.

2. The task of the group is to draw up a tariff negotiating plan of as general application as possible, taking duly into account the views of the developing countries, particularly with regard to the Generalized System of Preferences (MTN/W/10, Paragraph 2).

3. It is suggested that inter alia the group consider its tasks at this initial meeting to include the following items of a procedural nature:
   
   (a) Election of Chairman of the Group;
   (b) Establishment of a calendar of meetings.

4. It is further suggested that the group commence negotiations on the following items which have already been discussed in the preparatory stage of the negotiations:
   
   (a) Determination of the base date and the base rates;
   (b) Determination of the base year or years for the collection of statistics;
   (c) Determination of the unit of account;
   (d) How account might be taken of the importance of maintaining and improving the Generalized System of Preferences; and
   (e) How special and more favourable treatment may be provided to exports of developing countries.

In addition, delegations are invited to outline more precisely than they have done so far their proposals concerning the establishment of a tariff cutting formula.
5. THE MEETING IS OPEN TO THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE INDICATED THEIR DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND HAVE THUS ASSURED MEMBERSHIP OF THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE. SUCH MEMBERS ARE ACCORDINGLY INVITED TO INFORM ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF THE NAMES OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES WHO WILL ATTEND THE MEETING OF THE GROUP.

6. REPRESENTATIVES NOT HAVING YET REGISTERED FOR THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS ARE REQUESTED TO REGISTER WITH THE CONFERENCE OFFICER, VILLA LE BOCAGE, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY ENTRANCE CARDS.

O. LONG