1. The Committee reverted to a communication from the People's Republic of China and agreed to grant observer status to it along the same lines as in other MTN Committees and on the same conditions as those applied to other observers.

2. The Committee elected Mr. D. Satherstrom (Canada) Chairman, and Ms. M. McDonald (Australia) Vice-Chairwoman for 1987.

3. The Committee was informed that as in the case of Portugal, Spain would withdraw from the Agreement in its individual capacity, remaining linked to it by virtue of its membership of the European Communities. The Committee was also informed about ratification procedures in Turkey.

4. The Committee took note of a detailed oral report on the thirteenth meeting of the Technical Committee on Customs Valuation, held under the auspices of the Customs Co-operation Council, 2-6 March 1987.

5. In regard to implementation and administration of the Agreement, the Committee took note of written and oral information provided by Argentina, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, the Republic of Korea, and Lesotho. It was agreed to take up at the next meeting the legislation of Brazil, Argentina's implementing regulations and its replies to the checklist once these became available and questions could be formulated, and the legislation of Lesotho once amendments to certain parts thereof had been communicated and questions formulated. Concerning Czechoslovakia and Korea, it was agreed that written questions from other members and any written replies would be circulated by the secretariat to all Parties prior to the next meeting, with a view to completing the examination of the legislation of these two Parties.

6. The Committee was informed that the two reference prices in Brazil, referred to in VAL/25 and relating to rotary offset machines and polycarbonates, had ceased to be in force as from 31 January 1987. One Party reiterated its request that further items be removed from the list subject to reference prices, pursuant to paragraph 2 of the Committee's decision on this matter of 13 June 1986 (VAL/M/18, paragraph 3).

7. The Committee reviewed the status of application of the Committee decisions on interest charges (VAL/6/Rev.1) and computer software (VAL/8). It decided to retain the item on the agenda for the time being and invited Parties that had not yet done so, to furnish the required information.
8. The Committee heard statements concerning a request by India (VAL/30) for a three-month extension of the period of delay before application of the provisions of the Agreement by India. It was agreed to grant the requested extension, i.e. until 1 October 1987, if no written objections were received by 30 May 1987. The Chairman invited India to submit the information required (VAL/1 and VAL/2/Rev.2) at an early date in order to prepare for the Committee’s examination of India’s legislation.

9. The Committee continued its discussion of questions concerning private companies engaged in customs valuation on behalf of governments. In this connection, one Party introduced document VAL/W/43 on its experiences with pre-shipment inspection and containing suggestions for possible further work in the GATT. In response to the Committee’s invitation to observers to give their views (VAL/M/19, paragraph 64) one observer introduced a document setting out the position of this government in regard to the employment of pre-shipment inspection companies (subsequently issued as VAL/W/44). A number of other delegations, including observers, made statements under this item. It was agreed to revert to the matter at the next meeting.

10. The Committee took note of updated information (VAL/W/29/Rev.2) and of a statement on technical assistance activities relating the Agreement.

11. The Committee took note of a statement by the observer for the Customs Co-operation Council concerning the conclusions of a special meeting on Valuation, which had been held under its auspices 11-13 March 1987.

12. The Chairman informed the Committee of the situation with respect to nominations of panel candidates and derestriction of documents.

13. The Committee’s next meeting will be held on 9-10 November 1987.