NEGOTIATIONS ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS

Note by the Secretariat

1. Paragraph 12 of the Chairman's summing-up and record of decisions of the February 1976 meeting of the Group "Tropical Products" (MTN/TP/5) provides that the tabling of offers will be followed by a process of bilateral or plurilateral negotiations between the participants concerned. It is stated in paragraph 13 that the Group will meet in June 1976, inter alia to review the status of the offers having regard to the offer lists circulated by the secretariat and the bilateral or plurilateral negotiations that may have taken place.

2. Based on information available to the secretariat, it is understood that as at the end of May, a number of offer-making countries have been able to hold meetings with certain requesting countries. However, because of the absence of some delegations from Geneva during the month of May, difficulties have been experienced in arranging meetings. In this respect, delegations might wish to ensure that the remaining period before the next meeting of the Group is fully utilized.

3. It may be recalled that participating countries wishing to enter into negotiations on the initial offers tabled on tropical products may make arrangements for meetings either through direct contact with the delegations concerned or alternatively through the secretariat.

4. It may also be noted in paragraph 12 of MTN/TP/5 that the secretariat is expected to keep in touch with the bilateral or plurilateral negotiations taking place.