Working Group on Domestically Prohibited Goods and Other Hazardous Substances

MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON DOMESTICALLY PROHIBITED GOODS AND OTHER HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

11 March 1991

1. The Working Group on Domestically Prohibited Goods and Other Hazardous Substances held its thirteenth meeting on 11 March 1991 under the chairmanship of Ambassador John Sankey (United Kingdom).

2. The Chairman recalled that at the last meeting of the Group on 12 December 1990 the text of the Draft Decision on Products Banned or Severely Restricted in the Domestic Market had been accepted by all delegations except one. It had been agreed that the next meeting would take place when this delegation was ready to present its views and, if necessary, any alternative language.

3. This delegation stated that in the period since the last meeting its authorities had begun an intensive effort to find a solution to its problems with the text; however, at this time it was not ready to put forward a concrete proposal. This delegation asked that the mandate of the Group be extended another three months, to 30 June 1991, so that it would have sufficient time to elaborate a proposal and consult with other delegations.

4. Two delegations voiced disappointment that more progress could not be made at this meeting and hoped that if a new extension were to be requested, it would be the last one and that the Group could conclude its work in this time.

5. One delegation informed the Group that its Government had recently tabled proposals in its Parliament for legislation related to domestically prohibited goods. It intended to notify the GATT contracting parties of the contents of this legislation as soon as possible under GATT's normal transparency rules.

6. The Group took note of the statements made. It was agreed that the delegation which had made a reservation would make efforts to submit its written proposal by the middle of April, certainly by the end of April, and that the Chairman would request an extension of the mandate of the Group to 30 June 1991. The next meeting of the Group would be held on 16 and 17 May 1991.