Note by the Chairman to Members of Group "Agriculture"

1. The attention of the members of Group "Agriculture" is drawn to the recent meeting of the Sub-Group "Technical Barriers to Trade" at which "The Sub-Group suggested that the time had come for the review of the applicability of the draft Standards Code to agricultural and tropical products referred to in paragraph 2 of MTN/NTM/1 to be initiated." (MTN/NTM/17, paragraph 9).

2. The above-mentioned draft Code has recently been issued under the symbol MTN/NTM/W/49 and is entitled "Draft Code of Conduct for Preventing Technical Barriers to Trade". Proposals relating to this text which are before the Sub-Group are set out in MTN/NTM/W/50.

3. It is suggested members may wish to study this document in anticipation of the possibility of the matter being brought before the next meeting of Group "Agriculture".

4. Certain other documents relevant to this area of the negotiations are:

(a) COM.TD/W/190 - Non-Tariff Barriers Arising in the Field of Health and Sanitary Regulations

(b) COM.TD/W/191 - Non-Tariff Barriers Arising in the Field of Standards

(c) MTN/3E/W/11 - Draft Code on Standards - (Explanatory Note with Special Reference to Agricultural Products)

(d) MTN/3E/W/26 - Some Aspects of the Applicability of the Draft Code on Standards to Agriculture

(e) MTN/3B/23 - Non-Tariff Measures Affecting Trade of Developing Countries

(f) MTN/NTM/3/5 - Standards; Packaging and Labelling; Marks of Origin