MEETING OF FEBRUARY 1976

Note by the Chairman

1. The Sub-Group on Meat held its third session on 2-4 and 9-12 February. The Sub-Group invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend this session of the Sub-Group as an observer.

2. In accordance with the first stage of its programme of work (paragraph 4 of MTN/ME/3) the Sub-Group, for the purposes of the negotiations, continued with the analysis begun at its October 1975 meeting, "of the specific characteristics, of the structure and the problems of the world meat trade, including the direct or indirect impact of trade barriers and trade-distorting practices." In this context, on the basis of document MTN/ME/3/8/Rev.1 and of the information furnished by delegations in the course of discussion, the Sub-Group carried out a multilateral examination and analysis of all the measures maintained in the bovine sector by Sweden, Austria, Finland, Spain, Roumania, Norway, Hungary and Yugoslavia.

3. The Sub-Group agreed that this first stage of its programme of work should be considered as having been completed but that it would be open to the Sub-Group to revert to the analysis described in paragraph 4 of MTN/ME/3 at a later stage. Delegations which have not yet presented the measures they maintain in the bovine sector for multilateral examination and analysis are invited to do so at the earliest opportunity. It was agreed that the secretariat Summary of Import and Export Measures (MTN/ME/3/8/Rev.1) be further revised to take account of points emerging from the analysis and of the information and comments which delegations are invited to submit in order to complete the summary.

4. The Sub-Group discussed various elements contained in proposals made with regard to the categories of topics identified at the first meeting (MTN/ME/3, paragraph 6) and agreed to continue this discussion at its next meetings. For this purpose the Sub-Group agreed that, on the basis of the proposals that have been made or may be made, it would continue to study the elements which might, inter alia, be the subject of possible multilateral treatment, as well as the elements which might not be the subject of such treatment, account being taken in either case of the inter-relationship of the commitments which might be undertaken.
5. In order to facilitate the work of the Sub-Group in terms of paragraph 4 above, delegations were invited to submit at the appropriate stage a list of elements for consideration in this regard and which would be compiled and circulated by the secretariat.

6. The discussion brought out a number of issues which required further reflection and clarification. The Sub-Group decided that informal discussions could be held on these issues among its members, with the assistance of the secretariat if requested, in the period between the present and the next meeting.

7. The Sub-Group agreed to hold its next meeting on 1-2 and 5-9 July.