Meeting of July 1976

Note by the Chairman

1. The Sub-Group met on 13 July 1976. It invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend this meeting of the Sub-Group as an observer.

2. The Sub-Group continued its discussion on problems encountered in the area of subsidies and countervailing duties and on proposals for appropriate solutions to these problems on the basis of the working paper prepared by the secretariat (MTN/WTM/W/52) and on submissions contained in addenda to MTN/W/43 which had been circulated since its previous meeting. The Sub-Group agreed to continue this discussion at its next meeting.

3. The Sub-Group agreed that it was needed to bring the issues and solutions in sharper focus for the pursuance of the aim to reach an agreed approach in the field of subsidies and countervailing duties before the end of 1976.

4. The Sub-Group invited participants who wished to do so to submit in writing by 30 September 1976 concise views on the various issues and solutions set out in MTN/WTM/W/52. Taking into account those submissions the secretariat will prepare, in consultations with delegations, a revised checklist. This document will constitute a basis for the discussion at the next meeting of the Sub-Group.

5. One delegation offered to endeavour to submit in time for the next meeting of the Sub-Group a text containing draft interpretative notes or a draft code concerning Articles VI and XVI. This text would constitute a negotiating proposal. This offer was welcomed by the members of the Sub-Group. The hope was expressed that such a draft would also contain provisions concerning differentiated treatment for developing countries.
6. One delegation suggested that the secretariat prepare a checklist of problems existing in the field of subsidies and countervailing duties on the basis of existing submissions and any additional submissions delegations might wish to make.

7. It was suggested that the next meeting of the Sub-Group should be held in November. The Sub-Group agreed that the exact date of the meeting would be fixed by the Group "Non-Tariff Measures".