1. The Group of Negotiations on Goods held its nineteenth meeting on 25 April 1991 under the Chairmanship of the Director-General.

2. The Chairman recalled that as stated in GATT/AIR/3175 the meeting had been convened to consider the way in which further negotiations on trade in goods would be organised.

3. He further recalled that on the basis of the understandings reached at the fifteenth meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee in February this year, he had been presiding over consultations, in his capacity as Chairman of the TNC at official level, in all areas of the negotiating agenda in which differences remained outstanding since the Brussels Ministerial meeting.

4. Given the large number of subjects and the limited number of working days available, further continuation of this working procedure would inevitably have involved an interval of a minimum of three to four weeks between meetings on each subject. In other words, both the pace of negotiation and the level of participation would be visibly, and alarmingly, out of tune with the political commitment that all participants had shown towards bringing the Uruguay Round to a successful conclusion as soon as possible.

5. The need for a formal structure for organizing the negotiations in the final phase and for persons to moderate the task of pushing the work forward in areas where differences remain outstanding were the major reasons behind the consultations held by Ambassador Rubens Ricupero. He was pleased to report that Ambassador Ricupero's efforts had been successful and wished to take this opportunity to thank him for his valuable contribution.

6. Ambassador Ricupero informed the Group that his consultations indicated that six groups open to all participants should be established to conduct further negotiations in the following areas and report to the GNG:

- Market Access (tariffs, non-tariff measures, natural resource-based products, tropical products), with Mr. Germain Denis as chairman to moderate negotiations in this area;

- Textiles and Clothing, with Mr. Arthur Dunkel as chairman to moderate negotiations in this area;
- Agriculture, with Mr. Arthur Dunkel as chairman to moderate negotiations in this area;

- Rule-making (subsidies and countervailing duties, anti-dumping, safeguards, preshipment inspection, rules of origin, technical barriers to trade, import licensing procedures, customs valuation, government procurement and a number of specific GATT Articles) and TRIMS, with Ambassador George Maciel as chairman to moderate negotiations in this area. Ambassador Maciel will be assisted by Mr. Rudi Ramsauer;

- TRIPS, with Ambassador Lars Anell as chairman to moderate negotiations in this area;

- Institutions (Final Act, Dispute Settlement and FOGS), with Ambassador Julio Lacarte-Muró as chairman to moderate negotiations in this area.

These persons might in due course need to be assisted in their tasks by persons whom they would choose in full consultation with participants.

7. The Chairman noted that the secretariat would be preparing a schedule of meetings, open to all participants, and an agenda for the first meetings, as soon as possible, in consultation with the newly appointed chairmen and with delegations. The existing arrangements for the attendance of international organizations at meetings dealing with different negotiating areas, as set out in MTN/TNC/3, Annex on pages 5 and 6, would continue to apply.

8. The Chairman invited the GNG to take note of all these arrangements. It was so decided.