GROUP OF NEGOTIATIONS ON GOODS
Fifth meeting: 16, 18 and 20 December 1986 and 22 and 28 January 1987

Addendum

The following statement, made on 22 January 1987 by the representative of India in his capacity as Chairman and Coordinator of the Informal Group of Developing Countries, is being issued as an addendum to the note on the fifth meeting of the GNG. This statement is referred to in paragraph 10 of MTN.GNG/6.

"I have sought the floor in my capacity as the Chairman and Coordinator of the Informal Group of Developing Countries.

The Informal Group of Developing Countries has discussed some of the important issues before the GNG. As a result of the discussion, a number of points have emerged which reflect the convergent approach of developing countries members of the Group in regard to these issues. The developing countries members of the Group believe that a statement indicating the convergent approach would make a constructive contribution to the positive outcome of the deliberations in the GNG. Accordingly, as desired by the Informal Group, I would like to make the following statement in my capacity as the Chairman and Coordinator of the Group:

1. Surveillance mechanism

Developing countries continue to believe that surveillance mechanism for standstill and rollback should be set up, if not prior to, at least simultaneously with the commencement of the negotiations in various areas referred to in Part I of the Ministerial Declaration. They further believe that procedures for surveillance should be based on the principles of transparency and multilateralism. These principles should govern procedures for rollback of protectionist measures also.

The Ministerial Declaration in paragraph B(iv) clearly states: "In the implementation of the standstill and rollback, particular care should be given to avoid disruptive effects on the trade of less developed contracting parties". This important principle should govern the procedures for implementation of standstill as well as rollback.

The surveillance body should reach conclusions in its deliberations and should also be in a position to make appropriate recommendations to the GNG and TNC.
2. Rôle of GNG

Developing countries members of the Group believe that, as envisaged in Section G of Part I of the Ministerial Declaration, the GNG should have an important and central rôle to play in carrying out the programme of negotiations. In this connection, developing countries members of the Group would like to emphasize the following four elements:

(i) GNG should be able to exercise effective control on the calendar for Negotiating Groups;

(ii) GNG has been entrusted with the task of elaboration of detailed negotiating plans by the Ministers. Such elaboration would naturally include subsequent refinement, amplification, modification or revision. While the Negotiating Groups should be free to initiate such refinement, etc. the responsibility for approval of the same should lie with GNG.

(iii) Negotiating Groups should report the progress of their work to GNG.

(iv) GNG itself should meet as frequently as necessary in order to discharge its functions of supervision and co-ordination.

3. Structure of negotiations

Developing countries members of the Group believe that a separate Negotiating Group should be established for each of the fourteen subjects contained in Sections D and E of Part I of the Declaration. There should be no discrimination in treatment of any of the subjects of negotiations, including textiles and clothing.

4. Techniques and modalities for implementing differential and more favourable treatment

In pursuance of the General Principles laid down by the Ministers in the Declaration, techniques and modalities should be established to ensure appropriate practical application of more favourable and differential treatment in favour of developing countries in all areas of trade negotiations.

5. Developing countries, members of the Group expect that the decisions that would be finally adopted by the GNG would reflect adequately and effectively the above positions.

6. The members of the Group express their sincere willingness to continue their constructive participation in the work of the GNG so as to accomplish the collective task before the GNG by the deadline of 28 January 1987."