1. This note sets out some of the main points raised at the meeting of the Negotiating Group held on 18-19 July 1988. A more detailed note by the secretariat will be issued in due course.

2. At this meeting, the Group carried out a first examination of proposals which had been submitted by the delegations of Japan, the United States, the European Communities and by a group of 15 participants. These submissions, contained respectively in MTN.GNG/NG2/W/13, 14, 16 and 15, had been made in accordance with a decision taken by the Group at its meeting of 25 February 1988 (MTN.GNG/NG2/6, Annex) which inter alia called on delegations to submit, to the extent possible by 30 June 1988, proposals indicating: measures which should be taken up in the Negotiating Group, the negotiating approach most appropriate for each measure, as well as the objective of these negotiations.

3. The Negotiating Group noted that background papers on preshipment inspection and rules of origin had been prepared by the secretariat at its request (MTN.GNG/NG2/W/11 and 12) and heard a number of statements on these subjects.

4. The Negotiating Group asked the secretariat to undertake an initial sorting of the existing notifications and others which might be forthcoming before 30 September, and in doing so, to be guided by the discussion held in the Group on the subject and the categories of the Inventory of Non-Tariff Measures (Industrial Products). After some discussion, the Negotiating Group agreed to revert to other suggestions for future papers by the secretariat at its next meeting.

Australia, Canada, Colombia, Finland, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland and Uruguay.
5. The Group agreed that at this meeting it will continue its examination of proposals on measures to be taken up in the Negotiating Group, specific reference being made in this regard to preshipment inspection. The Group noted that its decision of 25 February 1988 also called for additional proposals regarding procedures for the conduct of the negotiations to be made by 30 September 1988 and agreed that at its next meeting it would examine these with a view to taking a decision on the modalities for the negotiations. It would also take up the question of the Group’s contribution to the TNC’s December meeting.