1. The draft agenda, set out in GATT/AIR/3076 dated 30 August 1990 was adopted.

Introduction

2. The Chairman referred the Group to document MTN.GNG/NG4/23, a note by the Secretariat containing the main points raised at the last meeting.

3. At the meeting on 17 September, the Chairman advised the Group that he would be conducting extensive informal consultations over the next two-week period and during this time he would be convening plenary sessions to report on his progress. As regards the approaches to the negotiations during this period, he suggested that the Group begin its work on the basis of an MFA approach for the integration of the textiles and clothing sector into GATT addressing, initially, the fundamental issues facing it. He identified these as (a) the implementation of an MFA-based phase-out programme, (b) a transitional safeguard, and (c) strengthened GATT rules and disciplines and a verification mechanism.

4. A number of delegations endorsed the Chairman's proposed timetable and issues to be addressed.

5. Following a series of informal consultations, the Group met again on 24 September, at which time the Chairman provided an interim report on the progress so far achieved. He advised that these informal discussions would continue in the following days. This was agreed by the Group.

6. On 27 September, the Chairman was in a position to report to the Group on the outcome of his informal consultations in the interval between the two meetings. He said that he had discussed the major issues outlined at the formal meeting on 17 September and, in addition, had touched upon some other areas of concern to participants. He was of the opinion that the exchange of views on these issues had been positive and informative for all concerned and would provide an impetus to the work of the Group.

The Chairman also advised the Group that, pursuant to the procedures outlined in the TNC Chairman's summing up at its meeting last July, he would be sending a report on his assessment of the situation reached in the Group up to 8 October.

GATT SECRETARIAT
UR-90-0588
Future Work Programme

7. The Chairman then outlined a timetable for the Group's future work, fixing the date of 16 November, at the very latest, as a target for the achievement of its objectives. The timetable is reproduced in Annex "A" to this Note.

8. In addition to the five-week programme of negotiations outlined in the timetable, he urged all delegations to continue to hold bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral discussions so as to advance their mutual understanding and, thereby, facilitate the Group's work. In this regard, he pointed out that the dates of 11-12-13 October had been reserved for informal consultations.
ANNEX A

NEGOTIATIONS ON TEXTILES AND CLOTHING

TIMETABLE

October 11-13 (Informal)
Consultations with a view to carrying forward work on the main points in Chairman's text and establishing points requiring further negotiations.

Week 1
(15-19) 15 October Plenary meeting then continue informally. By mid-week to establish a revised Chairman's paper, bringing out the solutions reached on the principal points taken up in the Group and any points still in suspense. (Possibly the Group will continue on the weekend.)

Week 2
(22-26) Further negotiations aimed at reaching an agreement which could involve a revised or more finished text on points under discussion.

Week 3
(29 Oct-2 Nov) Period for intensive bilateral and plurilateral discussion also enabling delegations to receive final instructions from capitals.

Week 4
(5-9 Nov) Continuation of negotiations. (Possibly the Group will continue on weekend.)

Week 5
(12-16 Nov) Finalize text of agreement, 16 November being absolute deadline.