TWELFTH MEETING OF THE NEGOTIATING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE

Note by the Chairman

1. The Negotiating Group on Agriculture met on 14 and 15 November 1988 to continue its work under the Subsequent Negotiating Process.

2. The Group examined or further examined the proposals submitted as appropriate and further considered specific elements of these proposals and related working papers or submissions under the relevant items of the agenda (GATT/AIR/2714). In this regard the Group considered and exchanged views: on the proposal by India (NG5/W/84); on a statement by Hungary concerning the Budapest Ministerial Meeting of the Cairns Group (NG5/W/87); and on a submission of the United States on a Framework for Agricultural Reform (NG5/W/83). Statements or submissions on sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and barriers by the Nordic countries and Jamaica, together with papers by Jamaica on measures to compensate for increased prices in the short term and on the applicability of the AMS to developing countries, will be issued in due course as NG5/W/88 to 91 respectively. A paper by Australia on the concept of a freeze in down-payment will be issued as NG5/W/92.

3. Reports by the Chairman of the Technical Group on AMS and Related Matters (NG5/TG/1) and of the Working Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Regulations and Barriers (NG5/WGSP/1) were presented to and discussed by the Negotiating Group.

4. The Group considered the draft of the Chairman's report to the GNG for the Mid-Term Review. It was noted that the Chairman would in the light of this discussion report to the GNG. Points raised in the course of the meeting would be reflected in the summary of the meeting. It was also noted that consultations would continue with a view to having a version of Section B of the Chairman's report and that transparency in these consultations would be fostered by the Chairman.

5. Subject to confirmation it was agreed that the Negotiating Group, as well as its Technical and Working Groups, should aim to hold their next meetings in mid-February 1989.

6. The secretariat would prepare a summary of the main points raised in the course of the present meeting.