NEGOTIATING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE

Note by the Chairman

1. The Negotiating Group on Agriculture met on 25-26 September 1989 to pursue its work in line with the Mid-Term Review Decision on Agriculture.

2. In the course of its work under the agenda outlined in GATT/AIR/2836 the Group undertook an initial exchange of views on: a statement by Japan on non-trade concerns, GATT rules and disciplines and aggregate measurement of support (NG5/W/104); on a technical discussion paper submitted by Austria on aggregate measurement of support (NG5/W/107); on a submission by the European Community on improving the GATT rules and disciplines (NG5/W/106); and on a statement by Brazil on special and differential treatment (NG5/W/108). The submissions made and statements circulated at the previous meeting were subject to further detailed consideration. Statements by Indonesia on behalf of ASEAN countries, by Colombia and by Korea will be circulated as NG5/W/109 to 111 respectively.

3. The Group took note of the oral report of the Chairman of the Working Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Regulations and Barriers on its 22 September 1989 meeting. The Cairns Group presented a communication on sanitary and phytosanitary issues (NG5/W/112).

4. With regard to the Short-Term Elements of the Mid-Term Review Decision it was confirmed that notifications by developed participants pursuant to paragraph 15 of the Decision are to be submitted by 20 October. It was noted that the secretariat would circulate draft guidelines for the reports to be submitted under paragraph 16 of the Decision for consideration at the next meeting.

5. Note was taken of the communication from the Director-General to the Chairman dated 18 September 1989 concerning the phasing of the work of Negotiating Groups in relation to the firm deadline accepted by the TNC for the completion of the negotiations.

6. It was agreed that, subject to confirmation, the Group would hold its next meeting on 26-27 October 1989. Thereafter the Group would meet as scheduled on 27-28 November.

7. A brief summary of the main points raised in the course of the present meeting will be prepared by the secretariat.