SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE NEGOTIATING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE

Note by the Chairman

1. The Negotiating Group on Agriculture met on 25-26 October 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/2861 the Group undertook an initial exchange of views on a submission by the United States on Comprehensive Long-Term Agricultural Reform (NG5/W/118); on a proposal on Ways to Take Account of the Negative Effects of the Agricultural Reform Process on Net Food-Importing Developing Countries presented by Peru on behalf of Group W/74 (NG5/W/119); and on a submission by Switzerland (NG5/W/114). Submissions made and statements circulated at previous meetings were also subject to further consideration. A statement by Morocco will be issued as document NG5/W/121.

3. The Group discussed the question of sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and barriers including the communication on this subject presented by the Cairns Group at the previous meeting (NG5/W/112).

4. The Group took note of the notifications submitted by Austria, Australia, Finland and Iceland, pursuant to paragraph 15 of the Mid-Term Review Decision. Developed countries which have yet to submit such notifications are invited to do so at an early date so that all the notifications can be discussed at the next meeting of the Group. It was agreed that the draft guidelines set out in the secretariat note NG5/W/117 should be taken into account by participants in the preparation of compliance reports to be submitted in the first instance by 1 December 1989.

5. It was agreed that the Group would hold its next meeting as scheduled on 27-28 November 1989 and, subject to confirmation, on 29 November 1989 as well.

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