THIRD MEETING OF THE NEGOTIATING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE

Note by the Chairman

1. The Negotiating Group on Agriculture met from 6 to 7 July 1987.

2. The Group continued its work under the initial phase of the Negotiating Plan on Agriculture. In this regard the Group had before it the following notes prepared for the meeting by the secretariat: a revision of the summary of major problems and their causes as identified thus far and of issues considered relevant (MTN.GNG/NG5/W/2/Rev.1); a summary of the main points raised in the course of the Group's consideration at its May meeting of basic principles to govern world trade in agriculture (MTN.GNG/NG5/W/12); a note on special and differential treatment for developing countries (MTN.GNG/NG5/W/13); and, a summary of the OECD report "National Policies and Agriculture Trade" (MTN.GNG/NG5/W/3/Add.1).

3. The United States proposal for negotiations on agriculture (NG5/W/14) was presented to the Group and was the subject of a preliminary exchange of views. Statements made by Australia and the Nordic countries are to be circulated as MTN.GNG/NG5/W/15 and 16 respectively. A statement by Japan on, inter alia, principles to govern trade in agriculture will appear as document MTN.GNG/NG5/W/17.

4. The Group was informed that notifications in the revised AG/FOR/- series had been received from: Argentina, Australia, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, EEC, Finland, Korea, Sweden, Turkey and the United States. Other participants were invited to notify their measures and policies, in line with the secretariat guidance note MTN.GNG/NG5/W/1, as soon as possible.

5. The Group agreed to continue its work under the initial phase of the Negotiating Plan at its next meeting which would be held in the second half of October. Specific dates would be announced by the secretariat in due course. The role of the CNG in this regard was noted. In order to facilitate the further work of the Group participants were invited to submit, in advance of the next meeting, their further views or proposals on the various elements of the initial phase.

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