FIFTH MEETING OF THE NEGOTIATING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE

Note by the Chairman

1. The Negotiating Group on Agriculture met from 7 to 8 December 1987.

2. The Group continued its work under the Initial Phase of the Negotiating Plan on Agriculture, including the initial or further examination of proposals.

3. A proposal for negotiations on agriculture by the Nordic countries (NG5/W/35) was submitted to the Negotiating Group and was the subject of an initial exchange of views and examination. A number of statements were made on the principles and considerations that should be taken into account in the negotiations on agriculture from the point of view of importing developing countries, and on special and differential treatment generally. It was noted that Japan would submit its proposal before the end of the year. The texts of a number of the statements made by participants will be circulated in due course.

4. The Group agreed to revert to the question of aggregate measurement of support and the secretariat note NG5/W/34 at its next meeting.

5. Participants which had yet to notify their measures and policies in the revised AG/FOR/- series were invited to do so as soon as possible.

6. The Group agreed that at its next meeting, which would be held in February 1988, it would take up work under the Subsequent Negotiating Process. Specific dates would be announced by the secretariat in due course. The role of the GNG in this regard was noted. In order to facilitate the further work of the Group participants were invited to elaborate the technical and other elements of their proposals at the next meeting and to submit more specific proposals or discussion papers on these elements. In this regard it was noted that it would be open to other participants to submit proposals in the course of the Subsequent Process.

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