SIXTH MEETING OF THE NEGOTIATING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE

Note by the Chairman

1. The Negotiating Group on Agriculture met from 15 to 17 February 1988 to take up work under the Subsequent Negotiating Process.

2. The Group examined the proposal submitted by Japan (NG5/W/39) and a communication by Jamaica (NG5/W/42). In the course of its further examination of proposals, including proposals for short-term action, the Group considered a paper on immediate measures in the framework of short-term measures proposed by the European Communities (NG5/W/43).

3. The Group embarked on the elaboration of the technical and other elements of proposals submitted in relation to sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and barriers, aggregate measurement of support, decoupled income support and special and differential treatment, on the basis inter alia of discussion papers submitted by the United States, the European Communities and Canada (to be circulated as NG5/W/44 to 46 respectively).

4. Participants which had yet to submit revised AG/FOR notifications were invited to do so as soon as possible.

5. The Group agreed that at its next meeting, which would be held on dates to be announced by the secretariat in the week of 11 April 1988, it would continue its work under the Subsequent Negotiating Process and elaborate further the technical and other elements of proposals on the basis, inter alia, of more specific proposals or discussion papers already submitted or to be submitted. In order to facilitate further work, a technical group on aggregate measurement of support and related matters would be convened which would report to the Group at its next meeting.

6. The secretariat would prepare a brief summary of the main points raised in the course of the present meeting. The texts of a number of the statements made by participants will be circulated in due course. The secretariat was also requested to prepare a note on the role and status of work of selected organizations in the field of health and sanitary regulations and barriers.