EIGHTH MEETING OF THE NEGOTIATING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE

Note by the Chairman

1. The Negotiating Group on Agriculture met on 9 and 10 June 1988 to continue its work under the Subsequent Negotiating Process.

2. The Group further examined the proposals submitted as appropriate and considered or further considered specific elements of these proposals and communications under the relevant items of its agenda. In this regard the Group, inter alia, undertook a preliminary exchange of views on the United States elaboration of its proposal with respect to food security (NG5/W/61) and on a paper presented by the European Economic Community on proposals for short-term action (NG5/W/62).

3. The Group took note of the report of the Chairman of the Technical Group on Aggregate Measurement Support and Related Matters. He invited participants to submit further PSE data and estimates to the Technical Group on the basis of the understanding reached in this respect. The Group was also informed that the FAO had responded positively to the request made on behalf of the Negotiating Group that the FAO co-operate in conjunction with the GATT secretariat in providing technical assistance to countries requiring such assistance in the submission of PSE data and estimates.

4. The Group agreed that at its next meeting, which would be held on 13 and 14 July 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 response to the invitation to participants to elaborate specific elements of their proposals in order to facilitate further progress.

5. The question of granting observer status in the Group to UNCTAD and the OECD was raised. The suggestion of the Chairman was accepted that this should be left for consideration on an ad hoc basis, following requests by participants in the Negotiating Group.

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