NINTH MEETING OF THE NEGOTIATING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE

Note by the Chairman

1. The Negotiating Group on Agriculture met on 13 and 14 July 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 considered and undertook a preliminary exchange of views on a communication presented by Jamaica, "Elements for a proposal by developing countries" (NG5/W/68) and on a proposal submitted by the Cairns Group of countries "Time for action, a proposal for a framework approach for agriculture" (NG5/W/69). This proposal was considered in conjunction with a submission by Australia "Illustrative elements of commitments to reduce support as part of first steps to long-term reform" (NG5/W/70/Rev.1). The Group also had a further exchange of views on the papers previously presented by the European Economic Community on proposals for Short-Term Action (NG5/W/62), and by the United States on Food Security (NG5/W/61).

3. The Group took note of the report of the Chairman of the Technical Group on Aggregate Measurement Support and Related Matters. The next Technical Group meeting will address the Checklist of Issues (NG5/TG/W/11) which will be supplemented by a secretariat listing of views expressed thereon.

4. The Group agreed that at its next meeting, which would be held on 12 and 13 September 1988, it would continue its work under the Subsequent Negotiating Process 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, including on the question of sanitary and phytosanitary measures. It was noted that thereafter the Group was scheduled to meet from 12 to 14 October 1988, and on 14 and 15 November 1988.

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