1. The Group of Negotiations on Services held its second meeting on 17 November 1986, under the Chairmanship of Ambassador F. Jaramillo (Colombia).

2. The Group discussed requests for permanent observer status from a number of international organizations. The desirability of defining some ground rules for the admission of observers was raised. It was widely recognized that one important consideration was the contribution which observers from international or regional organizations could make to the negotiating process, either directly or by assisting their member States during the process. There was also a need to have a clear understanding about procedures governing the participation of observers in meetings. The Group agreed to consider these matters further at its next meeting.

3. Regarding the organization of work, a number of points were raised concerning the possible content and programme of negotiations. In this regard, it was pointed out that, while the MTN were a single undertaking, Part II of the Ministerial Declaration was different in character and scope from Part I. The discussion brought out a number of elements to be addressed, and the importance of maintaining an appropriate balance between those elements in the negotiating process. The Chairman suggested that further consultations and discussions should focus on practical ways to deal with all relevant aspects of the issue in the initial phase of the work.

4. The Group decided to hold its next meeting at 10 a.m. on 12 December 1986.