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

2. The Chairman submitted a revised programme for the initial phase of the negotiations, in the form of a draft report to the Trade Negotiations Committee, which incorporated views expressed by delegations in the course of the informal consultations held since the last meeting of the Group.

3. Referring to the introductory paragraph of the Chairman's document some delegations stated that no reference to a precise time schedule should be introduced regarding the initial phase of the negotiations. Other delegations, however, insisted on maintaining a reference to the year 1987 as the duration of this phase. Concerning the elements to be covered in the initial phase of the negotiations, a number of delegations made suggestions on the substance and the order of these elements. It was generally felt, however, that during this phase it would be desirable to deal with all elements in a revolving manner. On the other hand, several delegations reserved their position on the schedule of meetings for 1987, pending the fixation of dates in other areas of the multilateral trade negotiations. There was a general understanding that at the first meeting of the Group to be held in 1987 a general debate structured around the elements would take place. Some delegations proposed that the initial phase should also provide for review and/or stock-taking of progress made, and one delegation proposed that a reference be made to subsequent phases. It was also proposed that the question of the nature of technical support from other organizations should be dealt with early in the initial phase.

4. The Chairman proposed to hold further informal consultations with the aim of presenting a revised draft for consideration of the Group at its next meeting, to be held on 19 December 1986.