Preparatory Committee

NOTE ON FOURTH MEETING

1. The Preparatory Committee held its fourth meeting on 17-20 March 1986 under the Chairmanship of the Director-General.

2. At this meeting the Committee discussed the following matters: Article XVII of GATT; Article XXIV of GATT; negotiation of concessions (Article XXVIII); notification and surveillance procedures; compensatory trade; functioning of the GATT system; trade in high-technology goods; trade-related investment measures; restrictive business practices; relationship between the new round and monetary and financial developments; modalities and institutional arrangements for the new round; participation in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations; objectives of the new round. One delegation introduced a discussion on the balance of benefits drawn by contracting parties from the GATT system under the matter of the functioning of the GATT system. One delegation introduced the matter of workers' rights. Another delegation introduced the matter of commodity price stabilization, to which it had referred earlier.

3. The Chairman announced that a secretariat paper on standstill and rollback was already in circulation. He said that before the fifth meeting on 14-16 April, the secretariat would attempt to prepare papers for the Committee on safeguards, agriculture, tropical products, treatment of developing countries, quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff measures, and structural adjustment. In addition, the secretariat would try its hand at producing ideas for the outline of a draft Ministerial Declaration. The Chairman also referred to a paper circulated by some delegations on standstill, rollback and safeguards. He encouraged delegations to submit contributions on any subjects. The secretariat documents mentioned above, together with any papers on these matters submitted by delegations, will provide the basis for discussion at the Committee's April meeting.