AGRICULTURE

The following communication, dated 2 May 1986, has been received from the delegation of Australia with the request that it be circulated to all members of the Preparatory Committee.

The Ministerial Meeting launching the Multilateral Trade Round should decide on the objectives of the negotiations on Agriculture. The following objectives are proposed:

"The negotiations on Agriculture will be conducted on the basis of an approach under which substantially all measures affecting import access and export competition would be brought under strengthened and more operationally effective GATT rules and disciplines. The recommendations adopted by the Contracting Parties in 1984 will be a key element. The elaborating work on possible negotiating options carried out by the GATT Committee on Trade in Agriculture will be taken into account. The aim of negotiations will be to liberalise access to markets and to eliminate the use of export subsidies in agricultural trade."

A statement of commitment by participants to achieve progress in negotiations on agriculture is required. This should be distinct from the objectives for negotiations on agriculture. The following is therefore proposed for inclusion in the preamble of the Declaration:

"As a commitment to the process of liberalisation in the specific area of agricultural trade which is recognised as being subject to an especially high level of restrictions and distortions, Ministers undertook a commitment to phase-out agricultural export subsidies over a ten year period, the details of which will be negotiated in the course of the Round."