

MINISTERS NOTED THAT GROUP COOPERATION AND THE CONCERTING OF POSITIONS HAD BEEN CONSOLIDATED AND ENHANCED FOLLOWING A MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS IN BANGKOK, THAILAND IN FEBRUARY 1987.

SINCE THAT TIME THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL PRODUCTIVE MEETINGS OF EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES IN KEY CAPITALS TO DISCUSS TRADE AND AGRICULTURAL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN HOST COUNTRIES. ADDITIONALLY, A SYSTEM OF CONTACT POINTS IN EACH CAIRNS MEMBER COUNTRY HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO ALLOW FOR TIMELY COMMUNICATION ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN.

MINISTERS WELCOMED THE FACT THAT CLOSE GROUP COOPERATION HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY EVIDENT IN THE CRITICAL PREPARATORY PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA.

AS AGREED IN BANGKOK, THE GROUP HAS WORKED CLOSELY ON ISOLATING THE BASIC PROBLEMS IN AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND THEIR CAUSES AND IN IDENTIFYING BASIC PRINCIPLES WHICH SHOULD UNDERPIN THE NEGOTIATION OF REFORMS IN THE GATT ROUND. THIS COLLABORATION WAS INFLUENTIAL DURING DISCUSSIONS ON AGRICULTURE IN GENEVA IN FEBRUARY.