

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Note by the Secretariat

1. As agreed at its meeting in May 1975, the Committee on Trade and Development has been undertaking, at each of its meetings, a review of developments in the multilateral trade negotiations with particular reference to points of interest to developing countries. The paragraphs that follow summarize the main developments since the last meeting of the Committee on Trade and Development held on 20 April 1979.

2. As of 18 October, eighteen countries and the European Communities had appended their signatures to the Procès-Verbal drawn up by the Trade Negotiations Committee at its meeting of 11-12 April 1979.

3. Certified true copies of the following multilateral agreements or arrangements have been sent to governments of contracting parties and other participants in the MTN:

- Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade;
- Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures;
- Arrangement regarding Bovine Meat;
- Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft;
- Agreement on Government Procurement;
- Agreement on Interpretation and Application of Articles VI, XVI and XXIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade;
- International Dairy Arrangement;
- Agreement on the Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

4. Consultations have been held between delegations from developed and developing countries in order to arrive at a single text of the Agreement on Implementation of Article VII (Customs Valuation). As a result of these consultations a Protocol to the Agreement has been circulated at the request of a number of delegations. It is the intention of these delegations to seek the approval of their respective authorities to sign the Protocol so as to ensure that the Agreement is applied together with the Protocol.

5. Consultations have also been taking place among interested delegations with a view to arriving at a single text of the Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Anti-Dumping Code). As a result, two statements have been circulated at the request of a number of delegations of developed and developing countries. One statement relates to some possible exceptions from obligations regarding investigations undertaken by developing countries and to technical assistance. The other statement relates to the criteria for the establishment of normal value in respect of imports from developing countries where domestic prices do not provide a commercially realistic basis for dumping calculations. In view of this latter statement, it is the understanding of the delegations who requested its circulation that the proposal for an amendment to the text of the Agreement set out in document MTN/NTM/W/241/Rev.1 is no longer maintained.

6. The Geneva (1979) Protocol to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was opened for acceptance on 11 July 1979. Annexed to the Protocol are the schedules of tariff concessions made in the multilateral trade negotiations by eighteen countries and the European Communities; the Protocol does not preclude that additional concessions could be established subsequently. The Protocol is open for acceptance by participants until 30 June 1980; as of 18 October 1979, it had been signed, generally subject to ratification, by nine countries and the European Communities. The Protocol shall enter into force on 1 January 1980 for those participants which have accepted it before that date, and for participants accepting after that date, on the dates of their acceptance.

7. A supplementary protocol shall have annexed to it schedules resulting from negotiations, subsequent to the establishment of the Geneva (1979) Protocol, which involve additional concessions or contributions or which concern concessions or contributions made by participants not having a schedule annexed to that Protocol. It is expected that the supplementary protocol will be opened for acceptance in November 1979.

8. The Group "Safeguards", at its meeting in July 1979, took stock of the negotiations on safeguards in the light of the directives given by the Trade Negotiations Committee in April 1979. In summing-up the meeting, the Chairman referred to the intensive negotiations, discussions and consultations

which had been held among delegations in pursuance of these directives, but which, in spite of considerable efforts undertaken by all delegations concerned had not resulted in agreement on a safeguards code. All delegations expressed their willingness and desire to continue work in the autumn with the objective of reaching agreement. In this light, members agreed to reflect on how best to continue the work with a view to meeting the objectives of the Tokyo Declaration in this area, taking into account the work already done. The Group took note, inter alia, of the proposal, submitted by the Director-General to the Council on 25 July 1979, regarding the establishment of a committee on safeguards (C/106). The Council is expected to consider this proposal further at its next meeting.