

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

TN.64/39
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Special Distribution

Trade Negotiations Committee

PROPOSALS FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE

1. The Committee on Agriculture has been given the responsibility of defining rules to govern, and methods to be employed in, the creation of acceptable conditions of access to world markets in agricultural products in furtherance of the significant development and expansion of world trade in such products.
2. The Committee has had comprehensive discussions about the possibility of establishing methods and rules acceptable to all parties in the negotiations. In the light of these discussions the proposed method would be to proceed by means of specific offers on individual products designed to achieve the objectives set out by Ministers.
3. For this purpose the following procedures should be applied:
 - (a) Negotiations on grains will be resumed in the Cereals Group on 3 May on the basis of specific proposals, including concrete offers, by participating governments, with respect to each of the elements already agreed upon as entering into the negotiations. Accordingly, participating governments which are members of the Group agree to table such proposals by 12 April.¹
 - (b) As regards meat and dairy products, similar proposals and offers shall be tabled not later than 16 September relating to each of the elements already agreed upon in the groups as entering into the negotiations.¹ The groups shall meet in April to consider whether further work is necessary on the identification of these elements. In respect to these commodities, they shall also conduct the discussion referred to in (d) below.
 - (c) As regards all other products, concrete and specific offers on individual products relating to all relevant elements of agricultural support or protection or to the total effect of these elements and designed to achieve the objectives referred to in paragraph 1, shall be tabled by 16 September.

¹As the work of the groups progresses, consideration will need to be given to the time and manner in which non-members of the groups would be brought into the negotiations on these products.

(d) With regard to products referred to in paragraph (c) above, discussions shall commence on 3 May with a view, *inter alia*, both to seeking to identify the relevant elements of support or protection which could enter into the negotiation and to exploring the views of the participating countries regarding the type and content of offers required to achieve the objectives referred to in paragraph 1 above.

(e) As regards sugar, it is noted that in the view of the Community it would be useful and desirable to establish a group on sugar, and it is agreed that this possibility will be considered by the Trade Negotiations Committee if and when a specific proposal is submitted to the Committee by the Community.

4. Negotiations based on the offers referred to in (c) above should start by a multilateral confrontation in the Committee on Agriculture in the course of which participating governments should be prepared to furnish explanations on the content and the scope of their offers, in relation to the objectives stated in paragraph 1, to the interested participating governments which so request. Where exceptionally particular products are excluded from the offer list explanations for their exclusion could also be requested.

5. Thereafter, the negotiations would proceed on the basis of the offers tabled in accordance with paragraph 3(c) above.

6. The Committee on Agriculture shall meet as necessary to facilitate the carrying out of the foregoing procedures.