

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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REDUCTION/ELIMINATION OF BARRIERS TO TRADE IN TROPICAL PRODUCTS

Joint Proposal by the Danish, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish Delegations

The following procedure is suggested for the treatment of tropical products in the context of the current trade negotiations in the GATT.

1. The secretariat would be asked to prepare an indicative list of goods mainly produced in the tropical countries and which are important in the export trade of these countries. This list should not, in this or any other negotiation, have a binding effect as regards the definition of tropical products. It should serve only as an exemplification of products which could be considered as tropical. (Any country could thus choose also among products not included in the list; cf 2. below.)
2. Taking this list as a basis every industrialized country should consider
 - (i) for which products it may take measures to abolish or reduce barriers to trade
 - (ii) from which date and over which period of time this could be done
 - (iii) the degree of reduction envisaged.

When measures are announced they would not be made conditional upon similar offers being made by other industrialized countries.

3. A working party could be set up with a mandate to follow up these submissions on the basis of a compilation of the replies and to make an analysis thereof. The group should take into account such possibilities as might exist to harmonize measures with the object of obtaining an overall result as favourable to the less-developed countries as possible.

The offers made could be embodied in a document with a binding character.