

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

CONFIDENTIAL

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29 November 1963

Group on Meat

ELEMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS

1. The Group had a meeting on 26 November 1963 in which it listed elements to which consideration should be given in negotiations for a general arrangement on meat. It was accepted that in agreeing on this list, no member of the Group prejudiced its position on a particular point and the Group noted the position of the European Economic Community which had not yet defined a common policy for some of the products considered.

2. It was agreed that at the next meeting of the Group, all members would be prepared to participate fully in the negotiations, in line with the Decisions taken by Ministers in May 1963 to create acceptable conditions of access to world markets for meat in furtherance of a significant development and expansion of world trade in meat. It was agreed that the elements in the following list would be taken into consideration in the negotiations.

(a) Products included in the negotiations

The negotiations would relate initially to meats of cattle and sheep, it being understood that live cattle and other types of meat would be brought into consideration as appropriate and necessary.

(b) Agricultural policies

All relevant elements of national policies relating to meat in importing and exporting countries, in particular production policies, including:

(i) Internal measures

- internal support policies and other measures

as they affect levels of domestic production and consumption.

- (ii) Measures at the frontier
 - import duties and charges including variable levies; where appropriate quantitative restrictions; minimum import prices and other import barriers.
- (c) International trade
 - (i) Access
 - relationship between domestic production and imports,
 - opportunities to compete for participation in meeting market demand,
 - reduction and elimination of discrimination in opportunities for access.
 - (ii) International prices
 - levels of international prices,
 - stabilization of international prices through measures aiming at a co-ordinated balance between world supplies and demand, or through measures directly affecting international prices, such as minimum prices, price ranges, etc.,
 - elimination of export subsidies.
 - (iii) Assurances of supply by exporting countries
- (d) Other matters
 - procedures for confrontation on production, import and export policies,
 - other procedural questions,
 - the possibility of concluding between the States principally concerned with a particular market local agreements, including for example, provisions for co-ordinated access for traditional suppliers and for domestic producers and participation of new suppliers,
 - interim arrangements,
 - surplus disposal and market development,
 - disparities of consumption levels in different countries,
 - veterinary, health and similar regulations.

3. The Group recognized that the negotiations were an integral part of the trade negotiations as a whole, which were due to commence on 4 May 1964. In order to fit in with the time-table for the general trade negotiations and in view of the fact that negotiations in the Group would necessarily be lengthy and complicated, it was agreed that a negotiating meeting should begin as early as practicable in 1964. A precise date would be left to the Executive Secretary to determine, in consultation with the members of the Group, but it was hoped that this meeting would be scheduled to commence in late February.