

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Special Distribution

Sub-Committee on Non-Tariff Barriers

MEETINGS OF GROUPS

Note by Executive Secretary

It was left at the last meeting of the Sub-Committee that I would schedule the first meetings of the groups which have been set up on particular non-tariff barriers in the light of contacts with delegations.

Following discussion with delegations I now propose that three of these groups - the Group on Customs Valuation, the Group on Administrative and Technical Regulations and the Group on Government Procurement Policies - should hold their first meetings in the period 15 July to 20 July.

At the last meeting of the Sub-Committee it was agreed in principle that a further group would be set up to deal with State trading, if and when proposals on this question were submitted by an individual delegation. I now understand that the United States delegation will be submitting a paper on this question. I shall ask delegations, when circulating the paper, whether they wish to be represented on such a group. On the assumption that the paper is circulated in time to make this possible, I propose to convene the first meeting of this group also during the same period 15 July to 20 July mentioned above.

As I understand that representation on the various groups would otherwise present difficulties for some members, I propose that the groups should meet one after the other. In principle each group will meet for one day in the following order: the Group on Customs Valuation, the Group on Administrative and Technical Regulations, the Group on Government Procurement Policies and the proposed Group on State trading. In view, however, of the limited total time available, some flexibility is desirable; for example, should the meeting of the first group take less than a day, the meeting of the second group might be started immediately thereafter on the same day, so as to allow more than one day for its meeting should that prove to be desirable.