

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/SG/3

24 November 1975

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Safeguards"

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 1975

Summing-up by the Chairman

1. The Group met on 17-20 November 1975. It invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend this session of the Group as an observer.
2. As agreed at its last meeting, the Group examined the questions contained in the check list which it had drawn up at its last meeting (MTN/SG/2, paragraph 6). examination enabled delegations to exchange views on the general question of the scope of the Group's work and its relation to the negotiations as a whole. It also gave delegations an opportunity to have a comprehensive exchange of views on all the aspects of the safeguard question and to reach a better understanding of the way in which different delegations saw the problems in this area. The discussion also clarified the relationship which delegations saw between different points. During the discussion a number of important substantive issues were touched upon. It also became clear that a further more detailed examination of a number of issues might be useful.
3. The Group invited the secretariat to draw up the following studies for its next meeting:
 - (a) the factual survey of surveillance systems referred to in MTN/SG/W/6;
 - (b) a factual study on dispute settlement setting out the history of this question in the GATT and identifying alternative approaches used in other international bodies in the commercial policy field.
4. One delegation indicated that it intended to submit a paper before the next meeting of the Group. The Group agreed that it would be open to delegations to make comments and proposals of a specific or general nature in writing and that at its next meeting the Group would take up any such comments and proposals as have been circulated by that time.

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5. The Chairman had noted suggestions that it would be useful to have a further examination of the points set out below. He proposed, therefore, that those points be examined at the next meeting bearing in mind the points made at the present meeting, on the understanding that the list was not exhaustive, that it did not indicate priorities and that it was without prejudice to the adequacy or inadequacy of the existing multilateral safeguard system and without prejudice to the position of any delegation as to the substance of the points to be discussed:

- (a) A further, more detailed exploration of agenda item (a), with a view to clarifying the relationship of a more satisfactory system to the wide range of current safeguard practices, and the consequences for the work programme of the Group.
- (b) The question of a comparable footing of commitments.
- (c) Criteria for invocation of safeguard measures.
- (d) Definition of minimum level of imports.
- (e) Time-limits and degressivity.
- (f) Content of notifications.
- (g) Distinction between short-term and long-term problems.
- (h) Question of periodic reporting.
- (i) Possible link between adjustment programmes and safeguards.
- (j) The question of burden sharing.
- (k) Selectivity versus most-favoured-nation treatment.

In discussing each of these points, the question of differential treatment for developing countries should be borne in mind.

6. The Group agreed to hold its next meeting in April 1976.

7. The Group agreed that the Chairman should make an oral report to the Trade Negotiations Committee on the work of the Group.