

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/SG/5
23 July 1976

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Safeguards"

MEETING OF JULY 1976

Summing-up by the Chairman

1. The Group met on 19 and 20 July 1976. It invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend this session of the Group as an observer.
2. The Group noted the communications received from Chairmen of other Groups or Sub-Groups (MTN/SG/W/12).
3. The Group took up an examination of what elements could be built into a possible new or revised multilateral safeguard system, on the understanding that delegations could come back to an examination of the present system at any time, and that the examination of the elements would be without prejudice to the question of the adequacy or inadequacy of the present system.
4. The Group noted the proposals which had been on the table for some time (MTN/3D/5, Annexes 3 to 5) and proposals tabled since the last meeting by Mexico (MTN/SG/W/10) and the United States (MTN/SG/W/11).
5. The Group noted that its invitation to delegations to submit comments and proposals of a specific or general nature in writing was still open.
6. The delegations making new proposals introduced these.
7. There were a number of questions and comments on the proposals before the Group which led to a useful discussion of the different general issues, including the particular problems of the developing countries. This discussion was of a preliminary nature, in particular because one major proposal had been circulated shortly before the meeting. Many delegations have reserved the right to give a more definitive response to the proposals before the Group at its next meeting.

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8. It is my impression that many delegations saw the various proposals before the Group as often of a complementary character.

9. The Group agreed that at its next meeting, to be held from 27-29 October, it would continue its consideration of the proposals already on the table and of any new written proposals which were before it at that time.