

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/SG/9

1 July 1977

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Safeguards"

MEETING OF MAY AND JUNE 1977

Summing-up by the Chairman

1. The Group met on 3 and 4 May and resumed its meeting on 27 and 28 June 1977.
2. The Group invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend this session of the Group as an observer. It noted the communications received from Chairmen of other Groups or Sub-Groups (MTN/SG/W/29 and 35). It also noted that, in accordance with agreed procedures (MTN/AG/5, paragraph 4I(i)), the Chairman of Group "Agriculture" had communicated copies of MTN/AG/W/22 and Suppl.1 and Add.1 and 2 containing reports concerning consultations held by three delegations under the procedures of MTN/AG/4.
3. At the end of the meeting the Chairman summed up on his own responsibility as follows.
4. The Group had a general discussion which, in particular, focussed on the matters which should be dealt with by the Group, the relationship between its work and other areas of the negotiations and special and differential treatment for developing countries.
5. The Group then examined in turn the following groupings of related issues:
 1. Criteria, conditions, suspension of substantially equivalent concessions or other obligations, compensation and adjustment assistance;
 2. Types of measures and modalities of application;
 3. Domestic procedures;
 4. Short-term seasonal and cyclical problems;
 5. Notification, consultation, surveillance, dispute settlement;
 6. Other topics.

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One point was raised under grouping 6 which related to automatic import licensing for safeguard purposes.

6. The Group had a detailed discussion of these groupings which enabled a better understanding to be reached of the present position of governments participating in the negotiations. Points concerning special and differential treatment for developing countries were raised and discussed in some detail under each of the groupings.

7. One delegation recalled proposals which it had tabled in Group "Sector Approach" in regard to their specific safeguard aspects and explained the main elements and the purpose of these proposals (MTN/SEC/W/7 paragraph 16-21).^{1/}

8. The Group agreed that, where possible, delegations should provide written submissions for circulation setting out their positions on the groupings of issues set out above and on any other issues relevant to the Group's work.

9. The Group agreed that its discussion of the groupings of issues had been carried as far as was useful at the present stage.

10. There was consensus in the Group that a period of reflexion on all the points made would now be in order which would at the same time allow bilateral and pluri-lateral consultations to take place and give the possibility to members of the Group to table drafts of concrete elements which might be the basis for further negotiations in the Group.

11. The Group agreed to retain the present agenda and to hold its next meeting in the autumn, the exact date to be fixed by the Chairman in consultations with delegations.

^{1/} Statement reproduced in MTN/SG/W/38.