

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/TP/3
23 June 1975

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Tropical Products"

CHAIRMAN'S SUMMING-UP AND RECORD OF DECISIONS AT MEETING OF 16-19 JUNE 1975

1. The Group "Tropical Products" held its second meeting during the period 16-19 June 1975, to carry forward the negotiations on tropical products in accordance with the guidelines agreed at its initial meeting on 10-14 March 1975 (MTN/TP/1). The Group agreed to invite the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend this meeting as an observer.
2. The Group had an exchange of views covering the contents of the request lists presented up to the time of the meeting, the possible approaches with respect to the kind of offers that might be made and the time-frame for negotiations including the presentation of offers having regard to the special and priority treatment to be given to the sector of tropical products. A number of points concerning differential treatment for developing countries in this sector and other considerations relating to the formulation of concessions were also made. Reference was made to the importance of taking up questions relating to price stabilization at the appropriate time, having regard to the provisions of section 1(ix) of the Guidelines.
3. The Group noted that a number of developing country participants had submitted their initial request lists for concessions to other participants as provided in section 1(i) of the Guidelines. Some other developing country participants indicated their intention to submit initial request lists in the very near future. The Group urged developing country participants interested in tropical products which have not yet submitted their initial requests to do so at the earliest possible date.
4. The Group agreed as follows:
 - (i) Intensive consultations should proceed as rapidly as possible between participants making requests and the participants to which requests are addressed. It was expected that such consultations would, inter alia, serve to clarify the factual information contained in the request lists and cover the examination and discussion of the initial requests as well as the preliminary substantive reactions to initial requests with a view to the early tabling of offers.

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(ii) Participants should keep the secretariat informed of arrangements for consultations so that adequate information with respect to the consultations taking place is available. The secretariat should be ready to assist delegations with arrangements for consultations including time-tables for meetings where called upon to do so.

(iii) Plurilateral consultations may also take place between two or more participants interested as exporters of the same products and the countries receiving requests on the same products. To this end, countries wishing to participate in such consultations may notify the secretariat and necessary arrangements will be made for this purpose with the concurrence of the participants concerned.

(iv) The Group would, at its next meeting to be held from 20 October 1975:

(a) review the progress made in the consultations and take such further steps as may be necessary in this respect;

(b) examine arrangements and proceed to establish a time-table for the presentation and possible circulation of initial offers, having regard to the desirability of achieving concrete results at the earliest possible date in accordance with section 3 of the Guidelines for the Organization of Negotiations on Tropical Products;

(c) consider questions relevant to the negotiations on tropical products which may require multilateral action taking into account, inter alia, section 1(ix) of the Guidelines and progress in the consultations; and

(d) consider questions covered by sections 1(v) and 2(iii) of the Guidelines.