

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/NTM/8

21 October 1975

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

MEETING OF OCTOBER 1975

Chairman's Summing-up and Record of Decisions

Taken at Meeting

1. The Group met on 13-15 October 1975. It invited the Secretary General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend this session of the Group as an observer.

(a) Establishment of a second list of non-tariff measures

2. It was recalled that the Group had discussed this matter on two previous occasions (MTN/NTM/1 paragraph 6 and MTN/NTM/6 paragraph 17). A number of proposals were made. In particular, different delegations suggested that the four following measures, variable levies and minimum import prices or other charges on imports; anti-dumping duties; government procurement; and prior import deposits, be added to the initial list. With regard to the first three measures, different delegations suggested that Sub-Groups be created to deal with them. With regard to the fourth measure, it was suggested that it be referred to the Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions".

3. A number of delegations stated they wished at this stage to concentrate on securing progress in the ongoing work in the existing Sub-Groups. Some other delegations considered that certain of the topics proposed were being examined in other MTN Groups and Sub-Groups and in other fora.

4. It was suggested that it would be helpful if the Group could treat two questions separately:

(a) Can a consensus be reached at this point of time on a second list of measures? and

(b) If so, can a consensus be reached at this point of time regarding when, and in what fora, the topics on such a list should be taken up.

5. The Group noted that there was no consensus on these points at the present time and agreed to revert to this item at its next meeting.

(b) Procedures for negotiations on non-tariff measures not dealt with multilaterally

6. The Group had before it the notes containing the points made at two previous meetings (MTN/NTM/1 paragraph 3 and MTN/NTM/6 paragraphs 2-6). The Group also had before it a note by the secretariat (MTN/NTM/W/4) and a paper by the Australian delegation (MTN/W/21). The Group discussed this item under three separate headings.

7. (a) The procedures for these negotiations

Many delegations recalled the points made during the June meeting and stated that in their view the situation had not changed since then. Some delegations thought that the basic approach set out in MTN/NTM/W/4 was acceptable. Some other delegations considered that this was too formal an approach. One delegation found this approach unsatisfactory. It was generally considered that it might be premature to adopt these procedures at this time. The Group agreed to keep this item on its agenda and to revert to this matter at its next meeting.

(b) The link between negotiations on non-tariff measures and tariffs

The Group noted the points made in paragraph 3 of MTN/NTM/6 and had recalled to its attention an earlier paper circulated by one delegation (MTN/NTM/W/1). It also heard some additional explanations. The Group agreed to come back to this matter in the light of further reflection.

(c) The proposal contained in MTN/W/21

The Group noted the proposal contained in MTN/W/21 in particular paragraph 6 "that the present Tariff Rate Information File should be expanded to include indicators of certain non-tariff import measures which relate directly to individual tariff lines" and the explanations of this proposal. A number of technical questions were raised. It was also suggested that an alternative would be for delegations to update the Inventory of Non-Tariff Measures and in particular that exporting countries should notify at the tariff line level where they could, the commodities affected.

8. The Group agreed that there was a need for further reflection on this matter. The Group agreed to have a full discussion of this matter at its next meeting. At that time it could decide on the establishment of a Technical Working Group to examine the question of the improvement of the data base and proposals on this matter. The Group also agreed that, in the meanwhile, there should be informal consultations between interested delegations, with the assistance of the secretariat, on the technical aspects of proposals made.

(c) Consultations or discussions on quantitative restrictions - status report and proposed procedure for report

9. The Group took note of the information contained in MTN/NTM/W/21 and of the suggestions regarding reporting procedures on consultations concerning quantitative restrictions made in paragraph 7 of this document. A number of points were made regarding the coverage of the consultations and the procedures that might be proposed with respect to action on quantitative restrictions affecting exports of developing countries. Some delegations recalled proposals with regard to quantitative restrictions affecting exports of developing countries which had been on the table for some time. The Group noted that these points would be further discussed in the Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions". With regard to the procedures to be followed for reporting on the results of the consultations, the Group considered that decisions concerning these procedures might be left to the Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions".

(d) Work of the other Sub-Groups

10. The Chairman reported orally on the work of the Sub-Groups "Technical Barriers to Trade" and "Customs Matters" respectively. The Group noted the need for delegations to submit their written comments on customs matters and comments and specific proposals on subsidies and countervailing duties as soon as possible in accordance with the decisions made by the Sub-Groups.

11. The Group agreed that the next meeting of the Sub-Group "Subsidies and Countervailing Duties" should start on 10 November.

(e) Date and purpose of the next meeting

12. The Group agreed to hold its next meeting on 3 and if necessary on 4 December to take up the question of the establishment of a second list, procedures for negotiations on measures not dealt with multilaterally, including the other proposals discussed under this item, and to review the work of the Sub-Groups which would meet in the interval.