

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/NTM/32
25 April 1977

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

MEETING OF APRIL 1977

Summing-up by the Chairman

1. The Group met on 20 April 1977. It invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend the session of the Group as an observer. It noted the communications from the chairmen of other Groups or Sub-Groups referred to in MTN/NTM/W/97.

2. At the end of the meeting, the Chairman gave the following summing-up on his own responsibility.

Establishment of a second list of non-tariff measures

(a) Variable levies, minimum import prices or non-tariff charges on imports

3. The Group reverted to the proposal that a Sub-Group on variable levies, minimum import prices or non-tariff charges on imports be established. Some delegations stressed the need for a decision as to how these matters might be pursued. Some other delegations said that, in their view, these matters were already being pursued in other contexts. One delegation said that there was a link between this question and work in other areas. The Group noted that the basic situation had not changed since this matter was discussed at its last meeting (MTN/NTM/26, paragraphs 2-3) and agreed to revert to the proposal at its next meeting.

(b) Anti-Dumping

4. The Group noted that the request for the establishment of a Sub-Group "Anti-Dumping" had been before it for some time (MTN/NTM/26, paragraph 4). Following a discussion covering both the formal and substantive aspects of the proposal, the Group agreed that at its next meeting it would continue discussion, under a separate agenda item, of substantive problems which delegations of developing countries considered to exist in this field, the specific difficulties or considerations which they wish to see taken into account and any suggestions or proposals that might be put forward to deal with these matters. Such a discussion would be without prejudice to any decision that might eventually be taken with respect to the establishment of a Sub-Group on the subject.

Non-tariff measures not dealt with multilaterally

5. The Group noted MTN/NTM/W/82 and Add.1 setting out working arrangements in relation to notifications submitted in accordance with the procedures agreed upon by the Group (MTN/NTM/26, paragraph 5 and Annex) and the notification received from one delegation. In this connexion, some delegations drew the attention of the Group to the differences of view recorded in paragraph 8 of the summing-up of the Chairman of Group "Agriculture" at its meeting in March 1977 (MTN/AG/6).

6. The Group agreed to revert to the other matters relating to negotiations on measures not dealt with multilaterally, including those mentioned in MTN/NTM/W/1, at a subsequent meeting.

Establishment of a comprehensive data base for item-related non-tariff measures

7. It was recalled that, at its last meeting, the Group had invited the GATT secretariat to include in the tariff rate information file the relevant information concerning all products (MTN/NTM/26, paragraphs 7 and 8).

8. The secretariat reported that it had been unable to carry out the tasks entrusted to it. This was due to the following reasons: (i) there was a lack of agreement among delegations as to the type of measures that might be included in the tariff rate information file; (ii) there had been major technical difficulties in estimating specific tariff headings from the product description particularly where this had involved identification of items in the tariff nomenclatures of countries which did not follow the CCCN system and (iii) there was lack of agreement among delegations on the need for countries to supply the additional information which would allow non-tariff measures to be related to specific items and headings in what could be generally regarded as a balanced and comprehensive fashion.

9. Some delegations expressed their regret at this situation.

10. The Group took note of the report of the secretariat and agreed to revert to the matter at a future meeting, as necessary.

Work of the Sub-Groups

11. The Group noted the summings-up of the Chairman of the Sub-Groups on the meetings which these Sub-Groups had held since the last meeting of the Group (MTN/NTM/27 to 31 inclusive).

12. It noted a suggestion by one delegation that, where this had not already been done, the secretariat should prepare a checklist of issues before the various Sub-Groups and, in particular, in the Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions".

Programme of meetings

13. The Group agreed on the following programme of meetings for the Group and its Sub-Groups:

Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions"	
- technical level meeting on licensing procedures	week of 23 May
Sub-Group "Government Procurement"	week of 13 June
Sub-Group "Technical Barriers to Trade"	week of 27 June
Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions"	week of 4 July
Sub-Group "Subsidies and Countervailing Duties") "Customs Matters")	week of 11 July (alternating)
Group "Non-Tariff Measures"	week of 18 July