

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/NTM/W/13

20 June 1975

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR BILATERAL OR PLURILATERAL CONSULTATIONS OR DISCUSSIONS ON QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its meeting of 22-30 April 1975 the Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions" agreed, inter alia, (MTN/NTM/2, paragraph 6(i)-(iii)), that an initial step towards the working out of solutions, a process of information, examination and dialogue should be undertaken with respect to existing quantitative restrictions. This process should elucidate, inter alia, whether restrictions are maintained in accordance with the General Agreement and should also elucidate the economic and social circumstances underlying particular restrictions in importing countries.
2. The Sub-Group also agreed that the process would take place through detailed bilateral or plurilateral consultations or discussions between countries maintaining restrictions and countries notifying a direct trade interest in these restrictions through the secretariat, and might include specific suggestions for action in regard to individual restrictions. Flexibility should be allowed for developing countries to participate adequately in this process.
3. The Sub-Group further agreed that the results of these consultations or discussions would be reported to the next meeting of the Sub-Group by the countries involved in each of the consultations or discussions for analysis of the existing situation by the Sub-Group.
4. In GATT/AIR/1166 all interested countries participating in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations were invited to notify the secretariat of their desire to enter into consultations or discussions, specifying the countries with which they wish to consult and the specific quantitative restrictions, indicating the products affected, on which they would wish to consult.
5. The secretariat has already received requests from several exporting countries indicating their desire to enter into consultations or discussions with certain importing countries. The importing countries are being advised in writing by the secretariat of the contents of these requests. The secretariat will be making an up-to-date report on the status of the requests received so far at the meeting of the Group.

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6. The secretariat is proposing the following technical arrangements for the consultations or discussions:

- (a) It was suggested in the Sub-Group that requests for consultations or discussions in regard to individual importing countries be grouped together. Consequently, meeting rooms and, where necessary, interpretation facilities are being made available by the secretariat for each importing country. It is suggested that the time allocated to each importing country be based upon the number of exporting countries having requested consultations or discussions and the number of quantitative restrictions concerned.
- (b) It is further suggested that if importing or exporting countries consider further consultations or discussions to be required, they might advise the secretariat accordingly in order that additional facilities can be made available.