

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MIN/NTM/W/54

5 July 1976

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## Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Non-Tariff Measures"

Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions"

### STATUS OF CONSULTATIONS ON QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS

#### Note by the Secretariat

1. At its meeting in April 1975 the Sub-Group "Quantitative Restrictions" agreed, inter alia, that as 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. 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. The results of these consultations or discussions would be reported to the Sub-Group by the countries involved for analysis of the existing situations by the Sub-Group. The Sub-Group might consider the possibility of formulating additional procedures for bilateral and/or plurilateral negotiations such as specific requests and offers in those areas where this would be appropriate. It might also consider the possibility of working out a general formula or formulae of automatic application (MIN/NTM/2, paragraph 6).
2. At its meeting of October/November 1975 the Sub-Group agreed, inter alia, that to facilitate its work in carrying out the task outlined above, delegations should endeavour to send to the secretariat summary notes with respect to the consultations in which they had participated as exporting or importing countries. The secretariat would assemble and distribute these summaries for the further work of the Sub-Group (MIN/NTM/9, paragraph 9).
3. At the meeting of the Sub-Group in March 1976 there was widespread support for the view that the consultations should be kept open, but that the process should be accelerated and that the delegations should endeavour, in advance of the next meeting, to send to the secretariat summary notes with respect to the consultations in which they had participated (MIN/NTM/14, paragraph 6).
4. The purpose of this note is to give an indication of the status of consultations on quantitative restrictions as of 1 July 1976. It is to be expected that in the course of the meeting of the Sub-Group scheduled to reconvene on 12 July 1976

(GATT/AIR/1293) delegations may have additional comments and observations to offer on the consultations which have taken place under the procedures adopted by the Sub-Group.

5. As of 1 July 1976, twenty-six participants<sup>1</sup> had notified the secretariat of their requests for consultations or discussions. In addition, one participant had directly notified the countries with which it wished to consult. The notifications were made against sixty-six countries, the European Communities and the Benelux countries. Both developed and developing countries are among the countries that have requested consultations and against which notifications have been made.

6. Summary notes received thus far by the secretariat have been circulated in MIN/NTM/W/40 and Addenda, as follows:

| <u>Reporting country</u>                                 | <u>Consultations held with</u>                                       |
|--|--|
| (a) Spain<br>(MIN/NTM/W/40)                              | Canada<br>Nordic countries   |
| (b) Nordic countries<br>(MIN/NTM/W/40/Add.1)             | New Zealand<br>South Africa<br>Spain                                 |
| (c) Romania<br>(MIN/NTM/W/40/Add.2)                      | Austria<br>Canada<br>EEC and member States<br>Japan<br>United States |
| (d) United Kingdom for Hong Kong<br>(MIN/NTM/W/40/Add.3) | EEC<br>Greece<br>Japan<br>South Africa                               |
| (e) Turkey<br>(MIN/NTM/W/40/Add.4)                       | Canada<br>United States  |

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<sup>1</sup>The European Communities and the Nordic countries count as one participant each.

| <u>Reporting country</u>                  | <u>Consultations held with</u>  |
|---|---|
| (f) Canada<br>(MIN/NTM/W/40/Add.5)        | Australia<br>Austria<br>Colombia<br>EEC (France)<br>Finland<br>India<br>Japan<br>New Zealand<br>Norway<br>Poland<br>Portugal<br>Romania<br>Spain<br>Sweden<br>Switzerland<br>Thailand<br>Turkey<br>United States<br>Uruguay<br>Yugoslavia |
| (g) Pakistan<br>(MIN/NTM/W/40/Add.6)      | Austria<br>EEC<br>Finland<br>New Zealand<br>Sweden<br>Switzerland<br>United States  |
| (h) Argentina<br>(MIN/NTM/W/40/Add.7)     | EEC<br>United States  |
| (i) United States<br>(MIN/NTM/W/40/Add.8) | Australia<br>Canada<br>Colombia<br>New Zealand<br>South Africa  |

7. At the October/November 1975 meeting of the Sub-Group, two delegations made oral reports on consultations held, as follows:

| <u>Reporting country</u> | <u>Consultations held with</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (a) Colombia             | EEC<br>United States           |
| (b) Uruguay              | EEC                            |

8. At the March 1976 meeting of the Sub-Group, a number of delegations made oral reports on consultations held, as follows:

| <u>Reporting country</u>        | <u>Consultations held with</u>   |
|---------------------------------|--|
| (a) Australia                   | Canada<br>Korea<br>United States   |
| (b) Austria                     | Poland<br>Romania  |
| (c) European Economic Community | Argentina<br>Colombia<br>Hong Kong<br>India<br>Japan<br>Korea<br>Malaysia<br>Mexico<br>New Zealand<br>Pakistan<br>Philippines<br>Poland<br>Romania<br>Singapore<br>South Africa<br>Thailand<br>Uruguay<br>Yugoslavia |
| (d) India                       | Australia<br>Canada<br>EEC<br>United States  |

| <u>Reporting country</u> | <u>Consultations held with</u>  |
|--------------------------|---|
| (e) Japan                | EEC<br>Nigeria<br>Philippines<br>Romania<br>Singapore<br>United Kingdom for Hong Kong |
| (f) Mexico               | EEC   |
| (g) Poland               | Austria<br>Canada<br>EEC<br>United States   |

9. It is the understanding of the secretariat that as of 1 July 1976, in addition to the foregoing, the situation concerning the countries listed below was as follows:

| <u>Reporting country</u> | <u>Consultations held with</u>  |
|--------------------------|---|
| (a) ASEAN countries      | EEC<br>Japan  |
| (b) Mexico               | EEC<br>United States  |
| (c) New Zealand          | Canada<br>EEC<br>Nordic countries<br>Pakistan<br>Switzerland<br>United States |
| (d) Switzerland          | New Zealand<br>Turkey   |
| (e) Yugoslavia           | Canada<br>EEC   |