

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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MTN/AC/4
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Multilateral Trade Negotiations Group "Agriculture"

MEETING OF 16 DECEMBER 1975

Note by the Chairman

1. Group "Agriculture" met on 16 December and, after discussion, agreed on the following:

(a) Group "Agriculture" agreed to pursue its work in accordance with the procedural suggestions in document MTN/W/24 and, as an initial step, will undertake a process of information, examination and dialogue with respect to all tariff and non-tariff measures affecting agricultural products other than those covered by the product Sub-Groups. To that end, the countries concerned would notify to the secretariat any tariff or non-tariff measures affecting the agricultural products defined above that are of direct interest for their trade. Bilateral or plurilateral consultations would be organized, with the assistance of the secretariat, on the basis of the notifications received.

(b) To assist in this work, the secretariat is requested to prepare documentation for the developing countries concerning tariff and non-tariff barriers affecting trade in products of particular interest for these countries.

(c) In order to facilitate full implementation of what was agreed in the Tokyo Declaration with respect to the developing countries, in particular the special procedures, Group "Agriculture" agreed that in the consultations defined above priority will be given to the notifications presented by developing countries to developed countries for the purpose of permitting the identification, in the first instance, of the problems affecting the trade of developing countries and their particular interests in the negotiations.

(d) In the light of the results of this procedure of information and consultations, Group "Agriculture" will decide how to pursue its work.

2. Delegations are invited to submit the notifications referred to above as soon as possible.

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3. In respect of the procedures set out above the Australian delegation expressed similar reservations to those it had made in the Trade Negotiations Committee in response to the suggestion by the Chairman of the TNC on 10 December 1975 (MTN/W/24 and 25), and was not able to indicate that it would participate in the proposed consultations.

4. It was agreed that the date of the next meeting of the Group would be fixed by the Chairman in consultation with delegations.