

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/AG/6

1 April 1977

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Agriculture"

MEETING OF MARCH 1977

Summing-up by the Chairman

At the end of the meeting, the Chairman, on his own responsibility, summed up as follows:

1. Group "Agriculture" met from 29 to 30 March 1977.
2. It invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend this session of the Group as an observer.
3. The Group took note of the communications received from the Chairmen of other Groups or Sub-Groups (MTN/AG/W/20).
4. The Group noted that to date no summary reports of bilateral or plurilateral consultations on "Other agricultural products" had been received.
5. The Group initiated the review of the applicability of the draft standards code to agricultural products, as suggested in MTN/NEM/17. It requested the secretariat to prepare a note, on its own responsibility, setting out the major points and observations made on this subject during the meeting. It also invited delegations which so wished, to submit further contributions on this subject to the secretariat.
6. The Group agreed to continue the review at its next meeting.
7. The secretariat was requested to prepare, within the limits of available time a concise note setting out the obligations in effect in selected international and regional bodies as regards notification and consultation, and dispute settlement, if any, and to prepare a list of international and regional agricultural product standards falling under the definition given in MTN/NEM/W/93. Some delegates questioned the usefulness of some parts of this exercise.

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8. The representative of the EEC drew the Group's attention to the communication (MTN/AG/W/18) in which the EEC stated that it considered that certain notifications made by the United States delegation were not in conformity with agreements reached earlier. The representative of the United States said that his delegation could not accept this view. The Group took note of the statements made.

9. The representative of Australia proposed that the Group should undertake a substantive consideration of the future programme of work of the Group at a meeting to be held before the summer recess. He put forward certain suggestions as regards the agenda.

10. Many delegations welcomed and supported the proposal by Australia. The Group agreed to meet before the summer recess, at a date to be set by the Chairman in consultation with delegations.

11. In view of the fact that some delegations could not state their position on the subject at the present time, the Group agreed that the agenda for the next meeting would also be set up by the Chairman in consultation with delegations.