

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED
MTN/DP/W/5
25 June 1975
Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations
Group "Agriculture"
Sub-Group on Dairy Products

Original: Spanish

STATEMENT MADE BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ARGENTINA ON 23 JUNE 1975

The Argentine delegation has listened with close attention and great interest to the statements made so far in this Sub-Group by the principal countries participating in the international trade in dairy products, especially in powdered milk, butter, cheese and butter fats. In turn, we would like to state that, although Argentina does not play a prominent part in the international trade in dairy products in comparison with the above countries, we are still very concerned at the consequences of disorder and disturbance in the world market in dairy products for the development of this sector in our country and for its export possibilities.

A few days ago, in the Sub-Group on Meat, various delegations, including the delegation of Switzerland, referred to the close interrelationship to be found in many countries between milk production and bovine meat. We entirely agree with this observation, particularly as it applies to trade problems. Thus, for instance, immediately following the accession of the United Kingdom to the European Communities, during the years 1973 and 1974 our total exports of bovine meat and butter to the British market fell by \$130 million, representing a loss for our exporters of milk products of about 10 per cent of that sum.

From the statements already made so far, a number of fundamental points arise which we must bear in mind in our work if we wish to make an effective contribution to the expansion and liberalization of international trade in this sector. Unlike the situation in the Sub-Group on Meat, here we have a variety of international experience which may be of the highest value to us. I refer to the two Agreements within GATT - the 1970 Arrangement and the 1973 Protocol, to the so-called "Gentleman's Agreement" adopted in OECD, and to the rules of conduct laid down in FAO for the orderly disposal of surpluses.

In that connexion, my delegation feels it desirable that the Sub-Group should agree to request the GATT secretariat to prepare a document on the scope, operation and results achieved through these international instruments as regards world trade in dairy products, in order that we may take advantage of the availability of such valuable experience.

./.

We also consider that it would be a great help for our future work if the secretariat were asked to prepare, for our next meeting, as complete a list as possible of existing tariff, non-tariff and other barriers to trade in this sector, with particular reference to those of a discriminating character or which specially affect the interests of the developing countries, whether exporters or importers.

My delegation is prepared to play an active part in the joint search for multilateral solutions - or bilateral if those prove unobtainable - for all the problems relating to the dairy products sector. We are confident that our efforts will be inspired throughout by the undertakings set out in the Tokyo Declaration, and in conformity with that Declaration my delegation will do its utmost to ensure that whatever solutions are reached will include adequate provisions for special differential treatment for the developing countries.