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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

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Group "Agriculture"

Sub-Group on Dairy Products

STATEMENT MADE BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF FINLAND

ON 24 JUNE 1975

On behalf of the Nordic countries, Finland, Norway and Sweden, I should like to make a few preliminary remarks at this stage of the discussion.

In the Group on Agriculture the Nordic countries supported the establishing of a Sub-Group for Dairy Products. We realize the very great importance of world trade in dairy products and we will take part in the work of this Group in a positive spirit in order to reach satisfactory solutions. All of our countries are, however, relatively small as far as the trade in dairy products is concerned in comparison with the larger importing and exporting countries. We are aware of the fact that the international trade in dairy products, as in most agricultural products, has been subject to fluctuations and distortions for years. The Nordic countries have, however, managed to overcome some of the difficulties by following agricultural policies especially directed at stabilizing prices and market conditions in their own markets. Finland in particular has been forced to cut down agricultural production by various measures in order to meet the adverse market conditions.

The Nordic countries attach special importance to measures improving price and market stability in dairy products. We believe that this Group is a proper forum for negotiating new and more effective international rules for trade in dairy products.

One has now gained some experience from the international agreements on milk powder and butter oil. Although this experience might not be entirely positive, this mechanism could be useful if improved and complemented.