

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/FR/3

15 December 1977

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Original: French

Group "Framework"

MEETING OF DECEMBER 1977

Acting Chairman's Summing-Up

1. The Group met on 7 and 9 December 1977. It was agreed that the secretariat should provide the Chairman for this session of the Group. The Group agreed to invite the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend this session of the Group as an observer.
2. The Group noted the communications received from Chairmen of other Groups or Sub-Groups (MTN/NTM/W/129).¹ It also noted that, in accordance with the agreed procedure (MTN/AG/5, paragraph 4 I(i)), it had received from the Chairman of the Group "Agriculture" copies of MTN/AG/W/22/Add.3 to 13, containing written reports concerning consultations held under the procedures of MTN/AG/4.
3. As agreed at the July meeting (MTN/FR/2, paragraph 7), members of the Group continued to address themselves to the substantive questions which the Group is called upon to deal with in the context of its work.
4. The Group already has before it proposals, suggestions, and texts of statements by several delegations, circulated in documents MTN/FR/W/1 to 10 and 12 to 14. The Acting Chairman added that members of the Group wishing to make other proposals or suggest amendments to existing proposals were requested to do so in the near future so that negotiations on the issues as a whole could be engaged rapidly.
5. In addition, the Acting Chairman recalled that negotiations in the Group should proceed in parallel with those in other Groups and taking account of progress in other areas of the negotiations.
6. It was noted that the participants should still make an intensive effort in bilateral and plurilateral consultations so as to permit the necessary progress in the Group's negotiations.

¹By error, the document was circulated in the MTN/NTM/W series.

7. The Acting Chairman recalled once more his statement at the February 1977 meeting of the Group (MIN/FR/1 paragraph 3) that the practice had developed in GATT negotiations of giving delegations latitude to address themselves to issues in which they had an interest, but that no delegation was obliged to comment on any particular issue and its position was not prejudiced by its silence.

8. The Group requested the secretariat, on its own responsibility, to prepare for the members of the Group an annotated list or inventory of the main elements that had been the subject of suggestions made in the Group. The secretariat expects to be able to circulate this document to delegations in early January 1978.

9. With respect to the future, the Acting Chairman said that the Group would meet again as soon as the negotiations could effectively be engaged and that, as was customary, the date would be set by agreement in consultation with delegations.