

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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## Multilateral Trade Negotiations

### Group "Agriculture" Sub-Group on Grains

#### SUMMING-UP BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

The following summing-up by the Acting Chairman of the Sub-Group on Grains was approved by the Sub-Group at its meeting on 9 June 1975.

1. The Sub-Group on Grains held its first session on 26-28 May and on 9 June 1975. As it was noted that discussions were still being held on the question of chairmanship, it was agreed that this session of the Sub-Group would be chaired by the secretariat. The Sub-Group invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend this session of the Sub-Group as an observer.
2. The Sub-Group heard a number of statements regarding the basic approaches which could be adopted for the negotiations on grains, including a statement by the representative of the EEC<sup>1</sup> who proposed that an international agreement be negotiated, and a statement by the representative of the United States<sup>2</sup> proposing that the Sub-Group should begin its work with an examination of all the elements which should be considered in reaching the objectives of trade liberalization of the Tokyo Declaration. Some delegations considered that the initial emphasis should be on the reduction of barriers to world grains trade and trade disruptive practices, followed by due attention to the problems of market instability. Other delegations emphasized the difficulty of treating the question of trade liberalization separately from the question of stabilization and security schemes.
3. Some delegations emphasized the need for ensuring the security of supplies at reasonable prices for importing developing countries, taking specially into account the needs of the most seriously affected countries, and for incorporating adequate measures to meet these concerns in any international arrangements for the stabilization of markets, such as food aid, internationally financed concessional sales, including measures being discussed in the International Wheat Council and in the framework of the International Undertaking on World Food Security in pursuance of the decisions of the World Food Conference.

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<sup>1</sup>Issued as MTN/GR/W/1

<sup>2</sup>Issued as MTN/GR/W/2

4. The Sub-Group discussed the question as to how to organize its future negotiating work on the approach to be adopted.

5. With a view to seeking multilateral solutions in this sector, as decided by the Group "Agriculture", and in conformity with the Tokyo Declaration, including its paragraph 3(e), the Sub-Group agreed that at its next meeting, it will address itself initially to three inter-related categories of topics (the order of listing of which has no significance):

- (a) Topics related to the objective of stabilization of prices and markets;
- (b) Topics related to the objective of the expansion and ever greater liberalization of trade;
- (c) Topics related to the objectives concerning developing countries, including the objective of differentiated treatment, taking into account the interests of importing and exporting developing countries.

6. It is expected that in these three areas further concrete contributions as regards the elements of these topics will be made by delegations. The Sub-Group will undertake an examination of all the elements of all proposals that have been or may be made, with the objective of assessing their content and their relevance to the problems raised and to the objectives of the negotiation.

7. The Sub-Group agreed to hold its next meeting on 23 June 1975, it being understood that every effort would be made to avoid as far as possible any conflict in timing with the meetings of the Sub-Group on Dairy Products.