

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/GR/2

27 June 1975

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Agriculture"

Sub-Group on Grains

NOTE BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

1. The Sub-Group on Grains held its second session on 23 to 26 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 discussed various elements contained in proposals made with regard to the three interrelated categories of topics selected at its first meeting (MTN/GR/1 paragraph 5).¹ It was agreed that the discussion of the elements contained in the three categories of topics would be continued at the next meeting of the Sub-Group.
3. It was also agreed that in these areas further concrete contributions as regards the elements of these topics could be made by delegations. The Sub-Group reaffirmed that it 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 negotiations.
4. The secretariat was asked to prepare, for the next meeting of the Sub-Group, documentation on international trade in grains, covering wheat, maize, barley and sorghum. This documentation would be related to the three categories of topics listed in MTN/GR/1 paragraph 5, and would include the following:
 - (a) basic data on production, opening and closing stocks, exports, imports and international prices covering the years 1969 to 1974 or 1968/69 to 1974/75, to the extent data are available;

¹Further statements have been issued as documents:

MTN/GR/W/3	Argentina
MTN/GR/W/4	United States
MTN/GR/W/5	Japan
MTN/GR/W/6	Canada
MTN/GR/W/7	Australia

- (b) a summary table of measures affecting imports and/or exports of grains
 - on the import side including tariffs, quantitative restrictions, variable levies, State trading, mixing regulations and technical barriers to trade;
 - on the export side including subsidies, actions by central boards and agencies, export restitution, various restrictions including embargo, export credits, concessional sales, non-commercial transactions and variable levies;
- (c) for developing countries, data indicating development of production in relation to population, volume of exports and imports, if possible, with a distinction between commercial and non-commercial trade and the share of developing countries in total trade.

It was understood that developing countries wishing to have supplementary data incorporated under point (c) would contact the secretariat. It was also understood that while the secretariat would make every effort to avail itself of existing data, including data obtained from specialized bodies, the co-operation of delegations would be required for certain types of information.

5. The Sub-Group agreed that the Acting Chairman should make an oral report to the Group "Agriculture" covering the work of the Sub-Group.

Next meeting

6. The date of the next meeting of the Sub-Group will be fixed in consultation with delegations.