

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Sector Approach"

POSSIBLE SECTORS OF INTEREST TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Copper and Copper Products

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Group "Sector Approach" agreed at its meeting in April 1976 that the secretariat would study the implications of the sector approach for copper in relation to the trade interests of developing countries, including their copper-based industries.

2. In the first section of this note, some relevant patterns of interests in world trade in copper and copper products are reviewed, with particular reference to the trade of developing countries. Section two contains a summary of the main features in the structures of tariffs prevailing in the eleven importing markets which account for the bulk of the exports of developing countries in this sector taking also into account non-tariff measures. In sections three and four market prospects and some possible implications of "the sector approach" for the trade in copper and copper products of the developing countries are referred to.

I. The trade position of developing countries

3. A notable feature of world trade in copper and copper products is the marked degree of geographical and commodity concentration in both exports and imports. Among developing countries, the principal exporters in 1973 of copper ores and concentrates including matte to the eleven major markets included in this study (see Table 1) are the Philippines (the largest supplier which exports predominantly to one market, Japan), Chile, Peru, Indonesia, Zaire, Mauritania and Cyprus, whose combined exports, valued at \$570 million, represented 95 per cent of the \$599 million of exports from all developing countries and 40 per cent of imports of copper ores and concentrates into the eleven markets which were valued at \$1,510 million. Exports from developed countries, mainly Canada, Australia, the United States, South Africa and Norway, to the eleven markets were valued at \$910 million and represented 60 per cent of their imports. The main developing country exporters of unwrought copper and alloys (Table 2