

MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND

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MTN.GNG/W/8
27 January 1987
Special Distribution

Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

Original: English

COMMUNICATION FROM ARGENTINA

The Director-General has received the following communication, dated 27 January 1986, from the delegation of Argentina, with the request that it be circulated to members of the Group of Negotiations on Goods.

Agriculture: Negotiating Plan

The following text is proposed by Argentina:

Negotiating Objective

"CONTRACTING PARTIES agree that there is an urgent need to bring more discipline and predictability to world agricultural trade by correcting and preventing restrictions and distortions including those related to structural surpluses so as to reduce the uncertainty, imbalances and instability in world agricultural markets.

Negotiations shall aim to achieve greater liberalization of trade in agriculture and bring all measures affecting import access and export competition under strengthened and more operationally effective GATT rules and disciplines, taking into account the general principles governing the negotiations, by:

- (i) improving market access through, inter alia, the reduction of import barriers;
- (ii) improving the competitive environment by increasing discipline on the use of all direct and indirect subsidies and other measures affecting directly or indirectly agricultural trade, including the phased reduction of their negative effects and dealing with their causes;
- (iii) minimizing the adverse effects that sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and barriers can have on trade in agriculture, taking into account the relevant international agreements.

In order to achieve the above objectives, the negotiating group having primary responsibility for all aspects of agriculture will use the Recommendations adopted by the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their Fortieth Session, which were developed in accordance with the GATT 1982 Ministerial Programme, and take account of the approaches suggested in the work of the Committee on Trade in Agriculture without prejudice to other alternatives that might achieve the objectives of the negotiations."

Principal stages of the negotiating process

Initial Phase

Identification of major problems and their causes, including all measures affecting directly or indirectly agricultural trade, taking into account inter alia work done by the CTA, and elaboration of an indicative list of issues considered relevant by participants to achieving the Negotiating Objective.

The concurrent submission of supplementary information on measures and policies affecting trade in the AG/FOR-series, including full notification of all direct and indirect subsidies and other measures affecting directly or indirectly agricultural trade.

Consideration of basic principles to govern world trade in agriculture.

Submission of proposals for solutions aiming to achieve the Negotiating Objective relating to improving market access, improving the competitive environment and minimizing the adverse effects that sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and barriers can have on trade in agriculture including specific proposals in the form of strengthened and more operationally effective GATT rules and disciplines.

These proposals should be framed in a manner that would enable an assessment of: (a) their impact on international trade in agriculture; and (b) the specific GATT commitments that would result therefrom.

Subsequent Stages

Negotiations in order to achieve agreement, on the basis of the conclusions reached in the Initial Phase, on (a) comprehensive texts of strengthened and more operationally effective GATT rules and disciplines; (b) the nature and the content of specific multilateral commitments to be undertaken including as appropriate implementation programmes and transitional arrangements; (c) any other understandings which should also be deemed necessary for the fulfilment of the Negotiating Objective; and (d) exchange of concessions, as appropriate.