

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNG/NG5/1

20 February 1987

Special Distribution

Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

Negotiating Group on Agriculture

FIRST MEETING OF THE NEGOTIATING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE

Note by the Chairman

1. The Negotiating Group on Agriculture held its first meeting from 16 to 18 February 1987.
2. Mr. Aart de Zeeuw, Director-General of Agriculture, the Netherlands, was appointed by the Group as its Chairman.
3. A number of suggestions were made as to which international organizations might be accorded observer status. Reference was made in this regard to the FAO, the IBRD and the UNCTAD. It was agreed that the Chairman should bring these suggestions to the attention of the GNG which is to consider the general question of observer status for international organizations at its next meeting. It was the Group's understanding that it would consider this matter further in the light of the GNG's discussions.
4. The Group began work under the initial phase of the Negotiating Plan on Agriculture (MTN.GNG/5). In this context participants proceeded to an 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. Issues considered relevant by some participants to achieving the Negotiating Objective were also outlined.
5. The Group agreed to continue its work under the initial phase of the Negotiating Plan at its next meeting which would be held in the week of 4 May 1987. The secretariat, in consultation with the Chairman, would prepare a summary of the major problems and their causes as identified by participants at this stage as well as of the issues considered relevant. The secretariat was also requested to prepare a brief summary of the studies undertaken in recent years by selected international organizations and other bodies on the problems affecting trade in agriculture and their causes.
6. It was agreed that participants would provide information on measures and policies affecting trade in agriculture in line with a revised FORMAT and secretariat guidance note that would take account of the points raised

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GATT SECRETARIAT

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in this connection in the course of the Group's discussion. Participants which have already submitted AG/FOR's should endeavour to supply revised FORMATS before the next meeting. Participants submitting FORMATS for the first time should submit FORMAT notifications as soon as reasonably possible.

7. The possibility of holding a third meeting of the Group before the summer break would be the subject of informal consultations to be undertaken by the Chairman.