

MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNG/NG5/2

7 May 1987

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Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)
Negotiating Group on Agriculture

SECOND MEETING OF THE NEGOTIATING GROUP ON AGRICULTURE

Note by the Chairman

1. The Negotiating Group on Agriculture met from 5 to 6 May 1987.
2. The Group continued its work under the initial phase of the Negotiating Plan on Agriculture. The Group had before it a secretariat background note, prepared in consultation with the Chairman, summarizing the major problems and their causes as identified by participants at the first meeting as well as issues considered relevant (MTN.GNG/NG5/W/2), and a secretariat summary of studies on problems affecting trade in agriculture and their causes (MTN.GNG/NG5/W/3). The Group also had before it a contribution by the European Communities to the work of the Negotiating Group relating to the identification of major problems and their causes (MTN.GNG/NG5/W/4), and a submission by Argentina on problems and their causes in the agricultural trade (MTN.GNG/NG5/W/6). A statement on behalf of the Nordic countries, together with papers by Finland, Norway and Sweden on their respective supply management or stabilization measures, were also circulated (and will appear as documents MTN.GNG/NG5/W/8 to 11).
3. In the context of its consideration of general principles to govern world trade in agriculture the group discussed, inter alia, statements of principles submitted by the United States (MTN.GNG/NG5/W/5) and by Australia (MTN.GNG/NG5/W/7).
4. With regard to the concurrent submission of supplementary information on measures and policies affecting trade in agriculture in the AG/FOR/-series, the Group was informed that revised Formats had been received by the secretariat from Argentina, Australia and the United States. Other participants were invited to notify their measures and policies, in accordance with the secretariat guidance note MTN.GNG/NG5/W/1, as soon as possible.
5. The Group agreed to recommend to the GNG that the United Nations Secretariat, UNCTAD, the IMF, the World Bank and the FAO should be accorded observer status in the Negotiating Group on Agriculture.

6. The Group agreed to continue its work under the initial phase of the Negotiating Plan at its next meeting which would be held in early July. Specific dates would be announced by the secretariat in due course. Note was taken of the views expressed on the rôle of the GNG in this regard. In order to facilitate the further work of the Group participants were invited to submit, in advance of the next meeting, their further views or positions on the various elements of the initial phase.

7. The secretariat, in consultation with the Chairman, would revise MTN.GNG/NG5/W/2 in the light of the discussion under the first indent, and would prepare a summary of the main points raised in the course of the Group's consideration of general principles to govern world trade in agriculture. The secretariat would also prepare a brief paper on the agricultural trade problems of developing countries and on possible approaches and modalities for liberalizing trade in agriculture to the benefit of developing countries as a matter of priority.