

**MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

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Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

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Negotiating Group on GATT Articles

PROPOSAL FROM AUSTRALIA

The following proposal, dated 18 May 1987, has been received from the delegation of Australia with the request that it be circulated to members of the Group.

1. The Government of Australia requests that this Group establish a clear working arrangement concerning the relationship of the work of the GATT Articles Group with the work of other Negotiating Groups.
2. The Negotiating Plan for the GATT Articles Group currently implies that a decision must be made by the end of the Initial Phase about which Articles, provisions and disciplines will be the subject of negotiations in subsequent phases. From a practical point of view, this procedure is appropriate for Articles which will only be addressed by this Group.
3. The structure of the negotiations will lead, in fact, to the provisions of a number of GATT Articles being considered, at least initially, in other Negotiating Groups. For example: the Agriculture Group will be examining issues related to Articles XI and XVI; the Subsidies Group will examine matters related to Articles VI and XVI; Safeguards, Article XIX; and the Dispute Settlement Group's work will no doubt address Articles XXII and XXIII.
4. It is also noted that the Punta del Este Ministerial Declaration provides in Section G (iii) that: "Because of the inter-relationship of some issues and taking fully into account the general principles governing the negotiations as stated in B (iii) it is recognized that aspects of one issue may be discussed in more than one Negotiating Group."
5. In keeping with provisions of the Ministerial Declaration the Government of Australia considers the Group should make explicit provision to allow nominated Articles, that may be initially addressed in other Groups, to be considered by the Group after the conclusion of the Initial Phase.
6. It may not be necessary for the Group to address any Articles in this way but it would appear undesirable to restrict the scope for negotiations within the Group at this stage. This proposal also seeks to avoid duplication of work within the negotiations because the alternative course must be a full review of all GATT Articles likely to be amended in the Uruguay Round within the Negotiating Group on GATT Articles.

GATT SECRETARIAT

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