

MULTILATERAL TRADE  
NEGOTIATIONS  
THE URUGUAY ROUND

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNG/NG1/20  
14 June 1990

Special Distribution

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

MEETING OF 5 JUNE 1990

Note by the Secretariat

1. The meeting was convened by GATT/AIR/3000 of 21 May 1990. Under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. L. Duthie, the Group discussed the following points: present situation regarding the submission of proposals; review and assessment of the proposals; submission of tariff requests by participants; date of the next meeting.

Present situation regarding the submission of proposals

2. In his introductory remarks, the Chairman informed the Group that in accordance with the decision taken at the 4 May meeting, a record of the meeting together with a covering letter from him emphasizing the importance of participation in the negotiations had been sent to all delegations who were not present at that meeting. He also mentioned the fact that thirty-two participants from developing countries had attended a workshop on tariffs organised by the Technical Cooperation Division of the GATT secretariat. He referred to document MTN.GNG/NG1/W/36/Rev.2 and noted that to date, thirty-seven tariff proposals had been received and distributed, according to the Procedures for the Negotiations adopted by the Group on 30 January 1990. In this context, he invited the delegations who had not yet submitted such proposals to indicate to the Group when their authorities intended to do so.

3. Several participants stated that their countries' proposals would be submitted shortly. One delegate attributed the delay in submitting his country's proposal to a problem of coordination among his country's various Ministerial Departments.

4. One participant told the Group that the deadlines established by the Group had not been met by his country due to the major political and economic changes taking place in his country. However, several liberalizing measures had been adopted by his authorities to increase access to his country's markets. He informed the Group that while his country's proposal could only be defined once a global economic strategy for his country had been formulated, this did not exclude the possibility of engaging in bilateral negotiations.

5. Another delegate expressed disappointment at the present situation of the negotiations. He was of the opinion that a more multilateral approach was needed to move the negotiations forward. He said that his authorities remained undecided about the question of participation. However, in the event of an offer being submitted it would be subject to certain conditions. He stressed the fact that several trade-liberalizing measures had been implemented in his country and was disappointed to see that the same was not true of other countries. He felt that credit should be given, in the course of the negotiations, to developing countries undertaking such efforts of liberalization.

6. Another delegate emphasized his government's desire for increased participation in the negotiations. In his opinion, concessions made in the past did not represent contributions in the current round of negotiations. He highlighted the importance of a more active participation in the negotiations.

7. In response to a question from a delegate, a member of the secretariat said that the base rates used in the majority of the assessment studies were obtained from the tariff schedules available at the GATT. For countries for which assessments had not been made, a similar procedure could be envisaged provided that the tariff schedules of these countries were available at the GATT.

#### Review and assessment of the proposals

8. The Chairman reported that a total of three meetings had been held to review and assess the available proposals. Out of the thirty-seven proposals which had been received to date, twenty-six proposals had been examined. Referring to document IDB/INF/1/Rev.12, he explained that because of late submissions or due to the lack of tariff and/or trade data, not all the proposals had yet been analysed. In this context, the Chairman strongly urged the countries concerned to supply the necessary documentation.

#### Submission of tariff requests by participants

9. The Chairman recalled that in the Procedures for the Negotiations (MTN.GNG/NG1/17), it was stated that participants are expected to submit preliminary request lists for improvements of the proposals submitted. The purpose of this procedure was to enable participants to enter into bilateral negotiations as soon as possible. He informed the Group that to date the secretariat had received tariff requests from only ten countries. He urged those countries having submitted requests to provide the secretariat with copies of those requests, as foreseen in the Procedures for the Negotiations. In addition, the Chairman stated that at the next meeting the Group would need to address the issue of the profile report to be submitted to the GNG.

10. A delegate proposed that a second series of intensive bilateral negotiations be held during the weeks of 16 July and 23 July with the possibility of extending this period of time. Referring to the question of the profile report, he felt that the report should reflect matters as they stand in the substantive negotiations.

Date of next meeting

11. The Group agreed that the next meeting would be held on 16 July 1990.