

**MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS
THE URUGUAY ROUND**

RESTRICTED

MTN.GNG/NG1/W/53
MTN.GNG/NG2/W/81
MTN.GNG/NG3/W/46
MTN.GNG/NG4/W/60
MTN.GNG/NG6/W/54
17 October 1990

Special Distribution

Group of Negotiations on Goods (GATT)

Original: English

Negotiating Group on Tariffs
Negotiating Group on Non-Tariff Measures
Negotiating Group on Natural Resource-Based Products
Negotiating Group on Textiles and Clothing
Negotiating Group on Tropical Products

URUGUAY ROUND - MARKET ACCESS

Communication from Finland

The following communication dated 15 October 1990, has been received from the Permanent Mission of Finland.

Market access offers of Finland

In response to the understandings reached at the July TNC, concerning the tabling of specific offers in all areas of market access by 15 October 1990, and in order to contribute for her part to the ongoing work of the relevant Negotiating Groups, Finland herewith wishes to clarify her positions regarding some of the central elements under discussion in these Groups. All the proposals and offers earlier presented by Finland still remain valid, conditionally and without commitment. Finland continues her bilateral consultations with other participants but will not be in the position to present her final offers until the overall effects of the proposed concessions of all participants can be adequately assessed.

Tariffs

In accordance with the procedures agreed in NG1, Finland has tabled an initial proposal on tariffs on industrial products (HS 25-97). That proposal was prepared in line with the objectives established at the Mid-Term Review. According to the analysis by the GATT secretariat, this initial offer would result in an average tariff reduction by about one-third. Since the information available about the offers of a number of other participants - developed as well as developing - does not yet permit a full analysis of their weight in respect to the agreed MTR target and of their impact on Finland's own exports, in particular, the Finnish

MTN.GNG/NG1/W/53
MTN.GNG/NG2/W/81
MTN.GNG/NG3/W/46
MTN.GNG/NG4/W/60
MTN.GNG/NG6/W/54
Page 2

offer stands conditional and without commitment. Finland seriously seeks to maintain her own offer, but this will require that other participants for their part will table such offers that will justify the level of concessions embodied in the Finnish offer currently on the table. In her recent bilateral consultations Finland has expressed preparedness to further elaborate her initial offer, but it is, however, still too early to present a revised line-by-line offer.

Finland is prepared to consider possibilities for tariff concessions, on the basis of requests, also in products that otherwise might fall between Negotiating Groups because of the recent suggestions concerning the coverage of some groups (ref. inclusions to and exclusions from NG5, for example fish and fish products).

Textiles and clothing

The introductory note of the Finnish initial offer also gives a general outline of Finland's possible contributions in the area of textiles and clothing (HS 50-63). The details of this part of the offer have been explained in various bilateral consultations. The general stage of work in NG1 and NG4 does not yet, however, allow a line-by-line presentation of the offer on these products. Finland is prepared to present such an offer on short notice, if appropriate.

Agriculture

Finland is in the process of finalizing her offer on agricultural products. That offer will deal, inter alia, with the market access issues in that sector.

Sectoral approach

Although Finland for her part advocates a comprehensive approach in tariff offers, an open mind is kept regarding possible sectoral solutions. The proponents of such solutions are expected to elaborate in detail their proposals as promptly as possible.

Non-Tariff Measures

Requests and questions addressed to and presented by Finland on non-tariff measures have been discussed in bilateral contexts. Finland considers that the current situation does not require the tabling of concrete offers by Finland in this area.

Natural Resource-Based Products

Finland maintains the view, frequently echoed by the Nordic countries in NG3, that the tariff and non-tariff aspects of the negotiations on natural resource-based products can be appropriately dealt with in the other Negotiating Groups covering market access issues.

Tropical products

In accordance with the procedures agreed in NG6, Finland has tabled an additional offer on tropical products in March 1990. This offer also remains valid, although conditionally and without commitment. According to an analysis by the GATT secretariat, the total offer of Finland on tropical products would result in a tariff reduction by about 50 per cent. All tariff concessions contained in Finland's MTR schedule on tropical products have already been fully implemented by Finland.