

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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GATT WORK PROGRAMME: A STOCKTAKING

Communication from the Delegation of New Zealand

The following communication has been received from the delegation of New Zealand, with the request that it be circulated for the consideration of contracting parties.

It is the view of the New Zealand authorities that, while contracting parties should continue to give priority to implementing the results of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, those areas of concern to contracting parties should not be neglected:

- (a) which were not taken up in the Tokyo Round;
- (b) where no satisfactory outcome in the MTN was achieved; and
- (c) where imbalances in the GATT still remain following the MTN.

New Zealand believes that a particular area of concern relates to the sector of trade in agriculture and other contracting parties will doubtless have their own concerns.

In the view of New Zealand it is not too soon to be giving attention to the appropriateness of a stocktaking, to be conducted in the not too distant future, in the light of progress made in implementing the MTN and other aspects of the GATT work programme. This might comprise a comprehensive review in, say twelve to eighteen months time of the progress which has been achieved in the post-MTN period by the GATT and which would be carried out within an environment which could, if necessary, provide for a new and wider GATT initiative to identify the problems of greatest concern and the action which might be appropriate to tackle these.

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