

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

NTM/14

4 November 1985

Limited Distribution

Group on Quantitative Restrictions and Other Non-Tariff Measures

MEETINGS OF 9 AND 18 OCTOBER 1985

Note by the Secretariat

Chairman: Mr. J.N. Feij (Netherlands)

1. The Group met on 9 and 18 October 1985.
2. The representative of the secretariat informed the Group that the services of the Chairman, Ambassador Onkelinx, would no longer be available to the Group as he had recently been obliged to leave Geneva after completing his tenure. The Group expressed appreciation for the personal contribution to its work made by Ambassador Onkelinx since its inception. It noted that much of the work the Group had set for itself this year had been tackled and that the major outstanding item was consideration and adoption of the Group's (1985) Report. The Group invited Mr. J.N. Feij (Netherlands) to take over the chairmanship and see it through the adoption of the report.
3. The Group adopted the agenda set out in GATT/AIR/2202 of 23 September 1985: conclusion of the multilateral review of progress made in achieving the objectives laid down by Ministers (L/5713, paragraphs 44(i) and 65(b)); and consideration of its report to the Council. The Group agreed to consider the two items together.
4. The Group then examined a draft of its report prepared by the secretariat (NTM/W/14). After some discussion, the Group adopted its report. The Group noted that its report would be distributed as an L/-document (L/5888) for presentation to the Council meeting scheduled for 5-7 November 1985.
5. The paragraphs that follow record points made at the meeting which were not covered in the Group's report.
6. The representative of the European Communities expressed his delegation's general understanding that any future work in the Group would be subject to approval by the CONTRACTING PARTIES, including decisions to be taken by them in November 1985 relating to a possible future round of negotiations.
7. The representative of Norway, speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, stated that whereas further work on quantitative restrictions and other non-tariff measures was necessary, questions relating to institutional arrangements for continuing the work should be left to the CONTRACTING PARTIES to decide.

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8. The representative of the United States stated that he had a waiting reservation on the report to enable him to have further consultations with his authorities.

9. The representative of Poland indicated that the fact that some contracting parties may not have presented their specific proposals could not by itself justify the maintenance against such countries of discriminatory quantitative restrictions inconsistent with the GATT. Furthermore, he indicated that Poland had notified that it maintained no quantitative restrictions in terms of Article XI and, therefore, felt no need to make specific proposals at this stage. In respect of the proposal of the European Communities (NTM/W/i2), the representative of Hungary expressed the hope that the still unconfirmed information was correct, that the liberalization proposal for the Federal Republic of Germany was being brought into line with its GATT obligations; he urged Italy and Ireland to follow this example. The representative of the European Community, while regretting that to date only one proposal had been received from the countries of the Eastern Trading Area, confirmed that all aspects of this matter were still under consideration in the Community.

10. In respect of paragraph 7 of the report, the representative of Spain stated that his authorities could accept the symbols contained in the Annex for use in future notifications although the adoption of the new set of symbols and the corresponding changes to be instituted in Spain's previous notifications would impose a great burden. Spain reserved its right to present to the Group a revised notification adapted to the new set of agreed symbols which would replace Spain's previous notifications contained in the NTM/W/6/- documentation.

11. It was understood that the secretariat, in consultation with delegations, would begin work early next year on developing the summary tables of the type referred to in paragraph 11 of the Group's report. It would be the intention to include these tables in the secretariat's revised analysis of the basic data expected to be available in the middle of 1986 following the receipt of new notifications.