

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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SENIOR OFFICIALS' GROUP

Report by the Chairman (Ambassador F. Jaramillo)

1. The Group of Senior Officials was established by the Decision (L/5876) of 2 October 1985 of the CONTRACTING PARTIES. The Decision is as follows:

"The CONTRACTING PARTIES meeting in Special Session agree that:

- a preparatory process on the proposed new round of multilateral trade negotiations has now been initiated;
- in order to further this process, a group of senior officials, open to all contracting parties, is established; it will meet for the first time on 14 October;
- this group will report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES at their November session;
- at that session of the CONTRACTING PARTIES, a decision will be taken on the establishment of a Preparatory Committee to prepare the basis for the launching of a new round.

It is understood that:

- the senior officials' group will examine the subject matter and modalities of the proposed negotiations in the light of the GATT Work Programme and priorities for the 1980's as contained in the Ministerial Declaration of 1982 and the continuing consideration of changes in the trading environment so as to ensure that the GATT is responsive to these changes;
- the work of the senior officials' group will not prejudice the ongoing work of the GATT in terms of the 1982 Work Programme, and will not prejudice the work on services in terms of the 1982 and 1984 decisions and agreed conclusions of the CONTRACTING PARTIES; the November session will also receive reports on this ongoing work."

2. The Group met under my Chairmanship on 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, 30 and 31 October, and on 1, 8, 12 and 13 November 1985.

3. In pursuance of the CONTRACTING PARTIES' Decision of 2 October, the Group had a wide-ranging exchange of views on the proposed new round of multilateral trade negotiations.

4. The Group also had discussions aimed at providing a report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES covering the various views expressed. The Group could not reach agreement on such a report. The Group therefore entrusted me with the responsibility of reporting on its proceedings to the CONTRACTING PARTIES on its behalf.

5. I have not found it necessary to attempt to interpret the discussions in the Group. In my view, the summary records speak for themselves. They have been issued by the secretariat under the symbol SR.SOG/1-12. A cover note to the records draws attention to other relevant documentation to which delegates referred in the discussion in the Group.