

NUR 054
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TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE - 26 November 1992

The following is a text of the remarks made by Mr. Arthur Dunkel to a meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee, of which he is Chairman, on Thursday, 26 November. The proposals were adopted by the Committee.

"The agenda for this meeting is the following: 'to review developments since the meeting of 10 November, and to take appropriate action'.

"At its last meeting, the Trade Negotiations Committee requested its Chairman at official level to bring the concerns of participants to the notice of the authorities in charge of the Uruguay Round in Brussels and Washington.

"I can now inform the Committee that through my meetings on 11-12 November in Brussels, and on 15-17 November in Washington, I have carried out my mandate. Both the Brussels and Washington authorities organized these meetings at the shortest possible notice. Both parties responded to your message in the most positive and constructive terms, even more so because they were already engaged in a process of intensive consultations. As you are aware, these consultations have led to the understanding communicated to this Committee. This document has been circulated at the request of both parties.

"At the last Trade Negotiations Committee meeting, I was asked "to propose a concrete work programme as soon as developments indicated a genuine readiness by all governments to engage in substantive negotiations in Geneva on the basis of transparency and mutual trust".

"Taking into account the joint communication to which I have just referred, and also basing myself on intensive consultations I have carried out with participants in the Uruguay Round, I propose we agree that substantive negotiations in Geneva be re-activated as of today with a view to achieving a successful political conclusion of the Uruguay Round before the end of this year.

"As to the overall strategy for concluding these negotiations, I see no reason to change the approach which this Committee had agreed in January this year. In other words, the four-track approach outlined then remains fully valid even today. This implies also that two basic concepts which underpin the four-track approach must not be forgotten:

- one, the concept of globality requiring us to keep constantly in mind the interlinkages between each of the four tracks and parallelism among them; and
- two, the concept that nothing is final until everything is settled.

"Turning specifically now to the work programme, I would like to make the following comments:

- (i) The final and complete results of the Round will be consolidated in a document consisting essentially of two elements: the Final Act and the Schedules of Concessions;
- (ii) In respect of the Final Act, we have had a draft before us since December last year. This draft document has, of course, to be multilaterally reviewed and finalized. And this exercise, so critically important for the success of the Round, can only be credible if we all recognize that there can only be one such review. This will call for discipline and self-restraint from all participants, but without this, a quick conclusion of the Round - to which I know you all are now clearly committed - will not be possible.

- May I remind you that at the Committee's meeting in January, I had indicated that Track 4 was established with a view to examining whether it was possible to adjust the Draft Final Act in certain specific places, that these adjustments should be concentrated entirely on what all could collectively agree to without unravelling the package and that the exercise also would have to be conducted rapidly, in a low-key professional manner, in full consciousness of the very limited time available. These comments remain equally valid today.

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(iii) the elements included in the multilateral review of the Draft Final Act will be as follows:

- feedback from the establishment of detailed Schedules under Tracks 1 and 2 as far as progress in negotiations on market access and initial commitments in services is hindered by differing interpretation by participants of specific elements of the Draft Final Act. At first sight, this feedback may be expected mainly from Track 1.
- feedback from Track 3 as far as it becomes clear that some specific questions raised under this track go beyond technical or legal drafting. Two questions which already appear to fall in this category are certain institutional issues and dispute settlement.

"Coming now to the establishment of Schedules under Tracks 1 and 2, I recognize that it will not be possible to formally conclude the process in the next weeks. However, this should not prevent participants from moving rapidly to a stage where the overall shape, content and value of the trade liberalization package in goods and services can be clearly assessed.

"The Chairmen of the different tracks are already in the process of consulting participants with a view to establishing the calendar and the modalities of the work programme they have been entrusted to carry out.

"The Trade Negotiations Committee will remain on call, as will the GNG. I sincerely hope that well before the year-end break, you will be able to congratulate each other on your collective success."

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