

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/INF/47
11 April 1979

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Original: English

COMMUNICATION BY THE NORDIC DELEGATIONS (FINLAND, NORWAY AND SWEDEN)

The results of the MTN will constitute the framework for international trade for a number of years ahead. It is clear that the different areas of the agreed framework will vary in potential importance in relation to the specific needs and trade structures of individual developing countries.

Most of the Agreements now negotiated envisage the provision of technical assistance, inter alia, to enable developing countries to benefit from the potential advantages of each Agreement.

Against this background, the Nordic countries have jointly decided to undertake the financial sponsorship of two trade policy courses with emphasis on the expected results of the MTN in order to enable, in particular, the least-developed countries to assess the benefits stemming from these negotiations. We regard this initiative as a contribution to realize the objective embodied in the Tokyo Declaration to give special consideration to the problems of the least developed among the developing countries.

Given the long experience of the GATT secretariat of arranging trade policy courses the Nordic countries have asked the secretariat in co-operation with the ITC to arrange during 1980 two special courses, with twenty-five to thirty participants each, primarily reserved for government officials from the least-developed countries. The detailed organization of these courses is being worked out in consultation with the GATT secretariat.

Each course would last three weeks and would include a series of lectures entrusted to experts from inside and outside the GATT secretariat, including officials of other international organizations. The courses would cover an introduction to GATT, the results of the Tokyo Round in different fields and in particular the codes of conduct adopted during the MTN with emphasis on their implications for the countries participating in the courses.