

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/3E/3

9 April 1974

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

GROUP 3(e) - MEETING OF APRIL 1974

1. Group 3(e) met from 2 to 4 April 1974 in order to continue its work on Task 4 of the Programme of Work (MTN/2).
2. On the basis of the documentation before it, the Group proceeded to the analysis of recent changes in production, consumption and supply of and demand for the agricultural products listed in paragraph 23 of MTN/3E/2. It was understood that members might, if they wished, pursue this analysis regarding these products as well as citrus at the next meeting. It was also understood that members who so wished might propose other products for examination under Task 4, that the Group at its next meeting would select certain products for this purpose from among those proposed, and that the secretariat in co-operation with interested delegations would then prepare appropriate documentation which would be examined in due time.
3. The Group invited all delegations who wished to do so to submit in writing their views on questions that had arisen in and the conclusions to be drawn from the discussions that had taken place on the analysis of recent changes in world markets, or on any other relevant question of interest to them. It was understood that the texts submitted by members would be circulated by the secretariat in full. Members concerned were urged to submit their views as early as possible.
4. The Group requested the secretariat to prepare, in good time before the next meeting, a note listing the key points made by members regarding the analysis of the situation in world markets.
5. The Group agreed that at its next meeting it would proceed to the identification of the problems which result for world markets for the products listed in paragraph 23 of MTN/3E/2, and of their significance for an approach to the negotiations in the agricultural sector. This work would be based inter alia on the views submitted by members and the secretariat note referred to respectively in paragraphs 3 and 4 above. In this connexion reference was made to paragraph 25 of MTN/3E/2.
6. Recalling that the Programme of Work states that each group shall in the course of its work be guided by the Ministerial Declaration as it relates to developing countries, the Group agreed to take up this aspect in its work under Task 4 at its next meeting.

7. The Group noted that the secretariat note relating to the Draft Code of Standards (requested by it in MTN/3E/2, paragraph 31) had been circulated, and agreed to revert to Task 15 of MTN/2 at its next meeting.

8. The Group also agreed to address itself at its next meeting to the tasks which it is to carry out in conjunction with other groups. The secretariat will inform the Group of the relevant results reached in the other groups concerned, so as to enable it to consider or review them, as necessary.

9. The Group requested the secretariat to present to it at its next meeting a progress report on Task 3, the updating and completion of the documentation. The report should show the number of replies received and their coverage, and indicate any major gaps in the information received. In this connexion the Group noted that the secretariat intended to reissue the updated documentation in as practical form as possible, but recognized that it could not usefully be consolidated until the bulk of the information has been supplied to the secretariat. The Group therefore urged members to send in their information as soon as possible and in as complete a form as possible.

10. The Group agreed to hold its next meeting about one week preceding that of the Trade Negotiations Committee.