

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

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GROUP 3(e) WORK ON TASK 4

United States Proposal

Many opinions have now been expressed concerning the important facts that can be seen in the developments of the last few years for important agricultural commodities that have been discussed. Delegations have different views on the conclusions that should be drawn from these facts. Nevertheless, in order that we may achieve further progress, it is important that we try to move our discussion further ahead in the area of identifying the problems for world agricultural markets and their significance for an approach to the negotiations.

As the United States views this task, two questions especially need to be considered:

1. How can we improve rights and obligations so as to facilitate a further liberalization of world agricultural trade, leading to a rationalization of the world trading system in agriculture; and
2. How, under conditions of more liberalized trade, countries can assure the availability of imports when food is in relatively short supply, and access of exports to foreign markets even when supplies are relatively abundant.

The United States suggests therefore that a useful way to proceed would be for the secretariat to invite all delegations who wish to do so to prepare written statements containing their views on questions that have arisen out of the commodity discussions we have just had. The secretariat could set a date for receipt of such statements in order to allow time for the secretariat to make a summary of the statements and distribute the summary approximately three weeks before the next meeting.

At the next meeting the Group could then better concentrate on the identification of problems and their significance for an approach to the negotiations.