

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/3F/W/1
20 February 1974

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

GROUP 3(f) - POINTS RELATING TO PROGRAMME OF WORK

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Group has generally agreed that its work be so organized as to make it possible to take up work of an analytical nature on those items where sufficient statistical material is available, while statistical work is continued on other items with a view to undertaking analyses in due course.
2. The most comprehensive background material at present available in the GATT documentation relating to tropical products is contained in COM.TD/W/189, which provides details of tariffs and non-tariff measures and trade flows for 1964, 1967 and 1970 for a number of important commodities entering international trade. The importance of each product in the trade of individual developing countries in respect of the above periods is also shown. As far as additional information on prices, etc. is concerned, this will initially be collected for products listed in COM.TD/W/189 and extended progressively to the items contained in COM.TD/W/205, to the extent that information is available.
3. Thus, the following information would be compiled:
 - (a) The material on tariffs (including the GSP) and non-tariff measures would be up-dated on the basis of information provided by delegations. Exporting countries may have some further non-tariff measures to notify in respect of the products listed in COM.TD/W/189 and COM.TD/W/205.
 - (b) Export information will be up-dated by a table showing, for major tropical products in COM.TD/W/189, the value and volume of exports, as well as the export unit value, of each exporting country, for the years 1967-1972.
 - (c) With respect to prices, the secretariat would compile statistics illustrating the development over the last decade of export prices of the main tropical products and compare those series with export price indices for all primary products and for manufactured goods. These data, based on price quotations from commodity exchanges, would present the most up-to-date information, covering the whole of 1973 and possibly the early months of 1974. For tropical products which are less important in world trade, price quotations would be collected for the more recent years only.

(d) Details on per capita consumption will be provided in respect of the main products in the main consuming countries.

4. For the next meeting the secretariat will, in addition to the data mentioned in paragraph 3 above, have for each group of commodities mentioned in COM.TD/W/189, a covering note listing the main points emerging from the data. The note would refer also to any analyses of the situation relating to markets, prices, incidence of barriers etc., to be found in FAO, UNCTAD and other documentation on commodities subject to inter-governmental consultations.

5. The Group may be expected to review and analyze this material with the objective of arriving at a full diagnosis of the problems affecting the commodities in question. However, it will be open to the Group to consider whether, in relation to any specific commodities, further analytical work would be needed on particular aspects.

6. The secretariat will proceed with the collection of similar information where available along the lines outlined in paragraph 3 above for products covered in document COM.TD/W/205. When these details have been compiled, the Group might wish to proceed to an analysis of the data at a later meeting.

7. In addition to taking up further items for the compilation of information which are listed in Annex 1 of MTN/3F/1, it would be open to delegations to suggest other items for inclusion in the work. The Group may, at a later stage, consider the type of analytical work which may be undertaken in respect of such items.

8. In collecting information on certain items and proceeding with the further work envisaged, it would be kept in mind that the requirements of information and how this analysis may be organized may need to be reviewed in the light of developments in other groups.

9. The secretariat would undertake the collection of available data on stocks and would contact other organizations with a view to securing information on stock-holding practices in relation to the major commodities included in the documentation before the Group.

10. Date of next meeting.