

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/SG/4
5 May 1976

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Safeguards"

MEETING OF MAY 1976

Summing-up by the Acting Chairman

1. At the end of the meeting the acting Chairman summed up the meeting, on his own responsibility, in the following terms.
2. The Group met on 4 May 1976.
3. Because of other responsibilities the Chairman, Mr. H. Colliander (Sweden), was not able to be present, and in his absence this meeting was chaired by Mr. G. Patterson (Secretariat).
4. It invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend this session of the Group as an observer.
5. The Group noted the communications received from Chairmen of other Groups or Sub-Groups in accordance with the suggestion of the Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee (MTN/W/24, paragraph 8, MTN/SG/W/9).
6. The Group discussed the points listed in paragraph 5 of MTN/SG/3, the summing-up by the Chairman at the last meeting. This discussion, carried out on the understandings set out in that document, gave delegations an opportunity to amplify statements made at previous meetings and to clarify further a number of specific points.
7. The Group recalled that it had earlier agreed to conduct its work in two phases which would to some extent overlap:
 - (a) examination of the operation of the present multilateral safeguard system, and
 - (b) if this reveals inadequacies, examination of what elements should be built into a possible new or revised system (MTN/SG/1, paragraph 3).

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8. It appeared to the acting Chairman that there was a consensus in the Group that the examination of the operation of the present multilateral safeguard system had been carried as far as it usefully could be at the present time and that the Group should, starting with the next meeting, take up an examination of what elements should be built into a possible new or revised system, on the understanding that delegations could come back to an examination of the operation of the present system at any time, and that the examination of the elements would be without prejudice to the question of the adequacy or inadequacy of the present system.

9. The Group reiterated its invitation to delegations to submit comments and proposals of a specific or general nature in writing. It noted that a number of proposals had been on the table for some time and proposals by developing countries reproduced in MTN/3D/5 were referred to in this regard.

10. The Group noted the two factual secretariat papers circulated since the last meeting:

(a) International Surveillance System - MTN/SG/W/7

(b) Dispute settlement in international economic agreements - MTN/SG/W/8.

A number of comments on points raised in those papers were made.

11. On the assumption that the necessary work would have been done in capitals to make such a meeting productive, the Group agreed to meet on 19 July, inter alia, to take stock of the Group's work and to initiate consideration of such written proposals as had been put before it.