

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/TAR/8
17 December 1976

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Tariffs"

SUMMING-UP BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 1976

1. The Group met on 15 December 1976. It invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend this session of the Group as an observer. At the end of the meeting the Chairman, on his own responsibility, gave the following summing-up.
2. The Group continued its discussion on special and more favourable treatment to be provided to exports of developing countries. There was consensus that agreement on measures for special and more favourable treatment and procedures therefor be reached prior to, but at any rate by, the time of the tariff-cutting formula or formulae were selected. There was a useful and detailed exchange of views on which measures for differentiated treatment might be applicable, in connexion with the negotiations on a product level, in order to provide additional benefits for developing countries. Several delegations further clarified their positions.
3. There appeared to be certain measures which many delegations who spoke could accept in principle, their actual implementation depending on the individual countries and products in question. At the same time, there were some measures that a number of delegations found difficult or even impossible to accept. Still other measures that had been proposed were seen as needing further clarification and examination.
4. It seemed to the Chair that statements from developed countries indicated that what they regarded as feasible and appropriate varied from country to country, depending on their particular economic situation, laws, current practices and policies. The implication of this needs to be borne in mind in the Group's future work.
5. There was some discussion of the question of the contribution to be made by developing countries in accordance with the provisions of the Tokyo Declaration.

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6. In the light of the above, it was agreed to continue the discussions and consultations on special measures and procedures bilaterally and plurilaterally, with a view to making further concrete progress at the next meeting of the Group.

7. The Group had a brief discussion of the question of data base for the conduct of tariff negotiations. In this context, the need was reiterated for participants to submit consolidated schedules of GATT concessions which was seen as an essential part of the factual basis for the negotiations. Members of the Group were urged to submit for certification, changes in their schedules resulting from renegotiations or from withdrawals of concessions. The secretariat was requested to prepare, in consultation with delegations, for the next meeting of the Group a note outlining possible ways of improving the data base presently available.

8. The Group agreed that all the items on the agenda for the present meeting (including the item of the data base) would remain on the agenda for the next meeting of the Group.

9. The Group agreed that the next meeting would be held in March 1977, the exact date to be established by the Chairman in consultation with delegations.