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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Tropical Products"

MEETING OF 19 DECEMBER 1978

Summing-Up by the Chairman

1. The Group held its ninth meeting on 19 December 1978.
2. The Group invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend the meeting as an observer.
3. In the light of the advanced stage of the negotiations overall, the Group reviewed the situation with respect to tropical products having regard to developments since its October meeting. In this respect, a number of participants stressed the need to finalize the negotiations at an early date.
4. The Group took note of the offers and contributions already implemented as well as offers and contributions presented in response to requests submitted in this area as reflected in document MTN/TP(SECRET)2/Rev.3 and Add.1, indicating the situation as of mid-October 1978.
5. The Group heard statements by a number of delegations indicating, *inter alia*, the status of bilateral and plurilateral consultations and negotiations still under way, and calling for the intensification of such consultations and negotiations in order that satisfactory results might be implemented as soon as possible. Some delegations stressed that the outcome in this area of the negotiations needed to be compatible with the priority character of tropical products as provided in the Tokyo Declaration having regard, in particular, to the situation of the least-developed countries and the need for positive responses to the proposals put forward by these countries.
6. A delegation from an offer-making country stated that his authorities expected to complete bilateral negotiations with a significant number of developing countries at an early date. The offers made in this Group would be put into effect as rapidly as possible following the conclusion of successful negotiations.
7. Note was taken of a proposal that when the bilateral and plurilateral consultations and negotiations in the field of tropical products had been concluded, the secretariat should be invited to undertake an analysis of the results achieved in this sector.

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8. It was understood that consultations and negotiations among the participants concerned would be continued and intensified over the coming weeks with a view to reaching agreement in the area of tropical products at the highest possible level.

9. The Group agreed to meet again as appropriate and when it was useful for it to do so, to take up outstanding matters falling within its field of competence which may have to be acted upon within the time-limits of the negotiations. The date of such a meeting would be fixed by the Chairman in consultation with delegations and the secretariat.