

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/TP/14

10 April 1979

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Tropical Products"

MEETING OF 9 APRIL 1979

Summing-Up by the Chairman

1. The Group held its tenth meeting on 9 April 1979.
2. The Group invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative to attend the meeting as an observer.
3. The Group reviewed the situation with regard to tropical products having regard to overall developments in the negotiations.
4. The Group took note of the situation regarding negotiations on tropical products as reflected in document MTN/TP(SECRET)2/Rev.3 and Addendum 1. In this respect, a number of developed country participants stated that they had already implemented tropical product concessions and contributions resulting from the first stage of the negotiations and this represented a maximum effort in this sector. One participant noted that as a consequence the tariff concessions for tropical products had been implemented in advance. It was understood that bilateral negotiations with regard to tropical products among interested participants were continuing in the context of overall tariff negotiations.
5. Developing country delegations expressed disappointment at the results of the tropical products negotiations noting that notwithstanding the provisions of the Tokyo Declaration concerning these products, no adequate concessions had been made in certain areas of essential interest to them. It was their view that tariff escalation and the erosion of the generalized systems of preferences were some of the aspects which had not been resolved satisfactorily up to this point in time. Developing country delegations expressed the hope that the new concessions resulting from the negotiations would also be implemented for developing countries without staging.
6. Developing country delegations stressed likewise that the results of the negotiations with respect to non-tariff measures which affected tropical products had been limited and further efforts were needed in this area.

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7. Developing country delegations expressed the hope that negotiations on tropical products would continue with a view to achieving further improvements until such time as all tariff schedules had been completely finalized. Some of these delegations suggested that the Group "Tropical Products" should continue its work.

8. One developed country participant referred to the significant additional results achieved by his delegation in response to tropical products requests in the course of bilateral negotiations since the last meeting of the Group. While noting that the negotiations on tropical products should be regarded as being completed within the multilateral framework over the next few days, some delegations expressed their readiness to continue discussions or negotiations in a bilateral or other contexts.

9. The Chairman stated that the situation reached, as reflected in the comments made by delegations, would be brought to the attention of the Trade Negotiations Committee.