

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

MTN/TP/W/1

11 March 1975

Special Distribution

Multilateral Trade Negotiations

Group "Tropical Products"

POINTS MADE BY DELEGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO NEGOTIATIONS ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS

Below is a list of the main points made during the course of the Group's discussion on 10 March 1975 in connexion with the organization of the negotiations on tropical products.

(i) Full account should be taken of the relevant provisions of the Tokyo Declaration and the solutions already proposed during the technical and analytical work carried out in Group 3(f).

(ii) The secretariat should continue to update the background information dealing with commercial policy measures and prices prepared for Group 3(f) including up to date information on GSP rates and recent agreements affecting tropical products and make it available to delegations. Work should proceed on points relevant to the trade negotiations which were drawn to the attention of Group 3(f).

(iii) Individual participants or groups of participants should be invited to submit lists of initial requests to countries in whose markets they have an interest as exporters of tropical products indicating the tariff items and the products for which they would wish to secure concessions and the nature of the concession or concessions relating to obstacles to trade being sought. Requests for concessions should be submitted to the countries concerned by (30 April 1975/15 May 1975) on the understanding that additional requests could be made as the negotiations proceed. To facilitate the submission of requests, a suggested pro-forma should be made available by the secretariat.

(iv) Copies of the request lists should be filed with the secretariat which would make such lists available to all participants in the negotiations. (Informal contacts between interested countries could take place prior to the submission of request lists.)

(v) Arrangements should be made for appropriate consultations with respect to the request lists both among exporting countries and between the importing and exporting countries concerned.

(vi) Following the submission of requests and the consultations on these requests referred to above,

(the Group should be re-convened to consider arrangements for the tabling and circulation of offers and consultations and negotiations thereon according to dates to be determined.)

(offers should be tabled two months after the date for the submission of requests.)

(offers should be tabled by [the end of July 1975] [mid-August 1975].)

(vii) Negotiations on tropical products should be undertaken without prejudice as to what may or may not be considered a tropical product.

(viii) Following the tabling of offers, the Group should be convened to examine ways of providing special and priority treatment for tropical products and to examine the content and scope of the offers.

(ix) The Group should keep under review the progress made in the negotiations on tropical products with a view to arranging such multilateral discussions as would facilitate the achievement of the objectives of the negotiations. This should cover, inter alia, questions relating to non-tariff measures which are found not to lend themselves to negotiations on a product-by-product basis and which may need to be taken up in the context of solutions which might be worked out in regard to such measures on a multilateral basis in other areas of the negotiations.

(x) The Group "Tropical Products" should continue to bear in mind the inter-connexion between negotiations on tropical products and those on other products. To the extent necessary, the Group will co-ordinate its activities in connexion with points of mutual interest being taken up in other groups. The negotiations in this sector should take account of progress in other areas of the negotiations.

(xi) The negotiations should proceed having regard to the principle of non-reciprocity as contained in the Tokyo Declaration.

(xii) (The Group should examine problems within its purview which appear to require multilateral action with a view to working out appropriate arrangements and solutions either within the Group or elsewhere.)

(The Group should consider the possibility of multilateral solutions for tropical products identified by developing countries as requiring such action. In this connexion, the Group should examine the possibility of working out appropriate stabilization arrangements for commodities for which such arrangements are not being negotiated elsewhere.)

(xiii) The Group should report periodically to the Trade Negotiations Committee on progress made as well as on any outstanding problems which the Group or members of the Group may be facing so that the TNC may examine any further action that may be required taking into account, inter alia, developments in the negotiations as a whole, as well as the desirability of concluding the negotiations with respect to tropical products at the earliest possible date having regard to the priority given to this sector in the Tokyo Declaration.